

Hafa Adai!

Relief drives for Typhoon
Maysak this Saturday.

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Red Cross Walkathon raised
\$70K; had 2,800 walkers.

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75¢

Military aims to dredge coral reef

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

Scoured rock, coral rubble, and a contoured sea floor would be left of a vital reef off Tinian, if a ramp for military assault vehicles were to be built.

» **Despite dredging in federal water, 'spillover effects' for the CNMI expected**

Unai Chulu, 20-30 percent of Tinian's reef flat habitat and an "Essential Fish Habitat" for fish to spawn, breed, and grow, is the beach targeted for the dredging work.

The proposed coral dredging is detailed in the CNMI Joint Military Training Environmental Impact Statement, which regulatory agencies are

See MILITARY on Page 4

'I feel angry and confused'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

That's how Evangeline Agtarap Claassens, wife for 15 years of 60-year-old Dr. Francois Claassens, feels these days.

» **Victim slowly showing signs of progress**

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, Mrs. Claassens also said that, according to two doctors in Guam, her husband is slowly showing signs of progress.

"They will try to take the life support off today to see if he is able to go without it," she said.

Mrs. Claassens said she feels angry because their two minor children are suffering, having witnessed the attack. She is also confused why her husband has to suffer, which in turn affects their

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FOR ALLEGEDLY STEALING \$4K IN PTSA MONEY Ex-VP of KagES PTSA arrested

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A former vice president of Kagman Elementary School's Parents Teachers and Student Association was arrested on Tuesday for allegedly stealing the PTSA's fundraising money totaling \$4,442.34 and pawning a Public

» **Defendant allegedly also pawned PSS laptop for \$150**

See EX-VP on Page 4

Priscilla Taitano Castro, a former vice president of the Kagman Elementary School's Parents Teachers and Students Association, covers her face with court papers as a court marshal escorts her after a bail hearing yesterday in the Superior Court. Castro was arrested on Tuesday for allegedly stealing the PTSA's funds in the amount of \$4,442.34 and pawning a laptop owned by the Public School System.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE



Govt airs concerns on military's draft EIS

By JOEL D. PINAROC
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REPORTER

Government officials met with representatives of the military to discuss the draft environmental impact statement on proposed military activities on Tinian and Pagan.

The closed-door meeting early Wednesday was attended by Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres, along with heads of the Department of Public Lands, Department of Lands and Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Office, Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, and Senate President Victor Hocog (Ind-

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INSIDE



NATION

A family of eight dies of gas poisoning after utility cut power to their home.

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ENVIRONMENT

Oceans might take 1,000 years to recover from climate change, says a new study.

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LIFE & STYLE

A Nigerian-born senior is accepted at all 8 Ivy League schools.

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Local

Corrections is at 66 percent capacity—Guerrero

By JOEL D. PINAROC
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REPORTER

The CNMI's Department of Corrections is working at 66 percent capacity, but can still function to accommodate the department's requirements, said acting Corrections commissioner Robert A. Guerrero.

He also disclosed that, like any other agency, the department needs more funding to address some concerns.

Guerrero, who was on Capital Hill for a public hearing on his nomination as the new Corrections commissioner, said the "biggest challenge" that he will face, if and when he gets confirmed, is still funding.

One project that he mentioned was setting up a law enforcement academy to fulfill the deficiency in the department's manpower.

"We are planning to start a law enforcement academy, with the Department of Public Safety, to hopefully add 30 more officers," Guerrero said, adding that "this costs money, but somehow we've got to do it."

The additional 30 officers can bring the Corrections manpower complement to almost



Robert Guerrero is surrounded by Corrections officers during a Senate hearing on Guerrero's appointment as Department of Corrections commissioner.

full capacity, Guerrero said, noting that the department currently has around 60 officers for 185 inmates.

"There a lot of good officers at the DOC, and a lot of good working men and women," Guerrero said.

However, he said the officers have to work overtime to accommodate the department's

requirements. "One issue is that if we let them work overtime for long periods of time, they might get burned out," Guerrero said.

He also said there is a plan for the DOC to share resources with the Department of Public Safety. An arrangement can be made so that counselors working for DPS can also work for Corrections.

"We plan to work closely with the DPS, and share resources," Guerrero said, adding that Corrections can still maintain its functions because it has state-of-the-art facilities and good management.

Guerrero succeeded Ramon Mafnas, who is now a special assistant for projects for the government.

Former senator wants clarity on CPA power to lure new airlines

BY JOEL D. PINAROC
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REPORTER

The authority of the Commonwealth Ports Authority is "unclear" when it comes to negotiating or talking with airline companies that might be interested in having flights to the CNMI, according to former senator Pete P. Reyes.

As one of the appointed board members of the CPA, Reyes also said he will "seek to empower" the CPA if he gets the Senate's nod on his appointment.

"It seems the Marianas Visitors Authority has taken that responsibility," Reyes said.

This authority to talk or negotiate with airline companies is seen as important in light of recurrent delays in the flights of Cape Air, the only airline servicing flights from Guam and the CNMI and vice versa.

"Cape Air is becoming a frustration," Reyes said, adding that if CPA has the authority to talk with other airlines, it will do it right away.

Reyes, however, said he is

ready to work with any agency, including the MVA, to resolve issues such as the Cape Air delays.

As of the moment, though, CPA does not have a quorum, as it awaits the confirmation of three board members.

Reyes, along with Jose R. Lifofoi, and Roman T. Tudela, faced the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations on Capital Hill on Wednesday for a hearing on their appointments.

Cape Air executives were supposed to meet with Gov. Eloy S. Inos on April 1, but that did not push through due to the lack of flights. The meeting was apparently scheduled amid the growing discontent with the services of Cape Air.

The meeting was seen as an opportunity for Cape Air to clear the air on the continued delays of flights that has been going on for almost weeks at a time. Some CNMI lawmakers are already planning separate moves to invite Cape Air over.

the safe JAMBOREE

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Relief drives for Typhoon Maysak this Saturday

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

Two relief drives for the victims of Super Typhoon Maysak will be conducted this Saturday. Maysak hit Chuuk and Yap states in the Federated States of Micronesia last April 1, with four reported deaths and widespread devastation.

The relief drive for typhoon victims in Yap will be from 8am to 5pm at the Kilili Pavilion in Susupe, while the relief drive for victims in Chuuk will be held at the same time but at the Garapan Fishing Base.

CNMI Typhoon Maysak Relief Committee member Marcia Ayuyu said the committee was formed to provide assistance to the neighboring islands.

"In coordination with the CNMI-FSM Association, members of the CNMI Legislature, private businesses, and local non-profit organizations, [we] have created this committee," she said.

Ayuyu said the relief drive will help provide support that Yap and Chuuk desperately needs.

"We are reaching out to leaders and partners in our business

Humane Society policy coordinator to visit the Legislature next month

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

An official of the Humane Society of the United States Hawaii plans to meet with members of the Legislature when she visits the Commonwealth next month.

Inga Gibson, HSUS Hawaii senior state director and Pacific Islands policy coordinator, said she intends to urge lawmakers to work with the Humane Society to enact stronger anti-animal cruelty laws.

This comes in the wake of a *Saipan Tribune* article that reported the circulation of a disturbing animal cruelty video that reportedly occurred on Saipan. Guam resident Aguarin Iriarte initially emailed the video to *Saipan Tribune*. *Saipan Tribune* subsequently posted the video on April 5 and it garnered more than 23,000 views and 500 shares on Facebook. The newspaper also emailed the video to Gibson and she said she viewed it repeatedly in an effort to identify or get a clearer picture of the situation.

"We definitely need to strengthen Saipan's animal cruelty laws and in addition to bringing our spay/neuter clinic toward the end of May, I will be meeting with legislators, urging to work with us to enact some strong animal cruelty laws that will not only hold people that do these kinds of heinous acts accountable but will also deter others who may also consider doing other similar acts," Gibson said.

"What we normally do is offer a reward for information that leads to the identification and potential conviction of the person so that's what I am waiting

community for help and kindly ask for your assistance in providing necessities for the victims and their families," Ayuyu said.

Donations can be non-perishable goods, tents, hygienic products such as soap, toothpaste, and tissue; flashlights, canned foods, water, rice, and more.

Ayuyu said that monetary donations can also be made through Bank of Guam, for the "BOG Typhoon Relief Fund."

The Joeten Kiyu Public Library will also be accepting donations for the people of Chuuk and Yap.

Earlier, JKPL technical services librarian Rosalyn Ajoste said that Saipan Shipping, Saipan Stevedore, Construction and Material Supply, Matson Navigation, and the Commonwealth Ports Authority have donated a 40-foot container and agreed to waive all shipping fees in order to send relief supplies to the typhoon-battered islands.

The vessel's expected travel date is April 18. So JKPL is accepting donations from now until April 17.

For more information on JKPL donations and relief efforts, call Ajoste at 235-7329.

to hear about from the Mayor's office," she added.

Gibson pointed out that the CNMI's Administrative Code already has in place a law against unlawful killing or injuring of a dog.

The CNMI Administrative Code's "Title 165: Local Rules and Regulations; Saipan and Northern Islands (Third Senatorial District), Chapter 165-10: Office of the Mayor; Municipality of Saipan, Subchapter 165-10.1: Dog Control Rules and Regulations" has a specific section that deals with this type of situation.

Section 165-10.1-250 Unlawful Killing, Injuring or Impounding states that "except as otherwise provided in this part, it is unlawful for any person to kill, injure, or impound any dog, if the owner of the dog has complied with the provisions of this part."

This means that as long as the dog is licensed and registered, it cannot be killed, injured, or impounded. However, it doesn't state anything that prohibits any kind of animal cruelty.

"There is no question that Saipan's laws are really the weakest in the nation and the territories. Even Guam has significant cruelty laws. In the books for those kinds of act would cause felony on animal cruelty because obviously it doesn't appear that the individual is defending himself and the animal doesn't appear to be fighting back. It is hard to tell, but the animal that appeared on the video looked completely helpless and unprovoked," Gibson said.

She cited Hawaii, which has two levels in the laws that are

See HUMANE on Next Page

The U.S. Embassy on Kolonia, Pohnpei, has received several inquiries about how people can help those affected by Super Typhoon Maysak. The most effective way to support people affected by disaster events, including Super Typhoon Maysak in Micronesia, is to provide monetary donations to relief and charitable organizations working directly with affected populations. Even very small cash donations make a significant difference, thanks to relief and charitable organizations' bulk purchasing power. Monetary donations are the simplest option for donors, the most efficient for relief and charitable organizations, and the most effective for survivors, as they:

- Enable relief organizations

How you can help

to respond to urgent needs as they arise, which happens frequently in the early stages of an emergency response;

- Facilitate programs that material donations cannot support, including medical services, family reunification initiatives, and trauma counseling; and

- Allow the local purchase of much-needed goods, ensuring that supplies are fresh and familiar to survivors, acquired in needed quantities, and culturally, nutritionally and environmentally appropriate. These purchases in turn support local merchants and economies, which strengthens and speeds recovery.

Some community groups and civic organizations feel a strong desire to provide material donations, often in the form of clothing, canned food, bottled water, and other household items. While well-intentioned, these donations can actually delay the delivery of life-saving services and supplies to survivors and are costly and time-consuming for relief organizations to manage.

If monetary donations are not possible, prospective donors are asked to donate according to these guidelines:

- "Connect before you collect" by identifying a relief or charitable organization that has

specifically requested the items before the collection begins;

- Ensure that all material donations are directed to a consignee that can receive, manage, and distribute them;

- Ensure all documentation for the shipment are in order, including customs clearance, inspections, and port fees; and

- Arrange transportation before the collection begins.

For more information on the impact of non-cash donations, go to www.cidi.org. For more information on the U.S. Government's humanitarian assistance efforts in response to Super Typhoon Maysak, visit USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance. (U.S. Embassy Kolonia)

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Guam rejects lesbian couple's application to marry

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—Guam rejected yesterday a marriage license application from the first-same sex couple to apply for the document in the U.S. territory.

A Department of Public Health and Social Services clerk refused to accept an application filed by Loretta Pangelinan and Kathleen Aguero.

“It doesn’t mean I’m not sympathetic, but the law is going to prevent me from issuing a marriage license,” department director James Gillan said.

Under Guam law, a marriage license is only issued to a couple of the opposite sex, he said.

R. Todd Thompson, an attorney for Pangelinan and Aguero,

Mrs. Claassens said the Rota Commonwealth Health Center called to inform her not to fly home but to just wait at the U.S. Naval Hospital instead for her husband because they’re bringing him over via a Navy helicopter.

“I got confused and worried,” she recalled.

She said the doctors and nurses both at Naval Hospital and Guam Memorial Hospital were great and that her husband is being attended to by the best medical team.

Mrs. Claassens said words cannot express how grateful she is for the support she has received from the community and everybody that supports their family.

“My husband could not have made it to survive without the community and I will be forever indebted to everybody,” she added.

Meanwhile, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Esther Muña confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* late afternoon yesterday that Dr. Claassens remains in critical condition but his health is improving.

Muña said she had spoken with Dr. Claassens’ wife and confirmed that he is breathing on his own but still needs the ventilator.

“The injuries he sustained were a near miss to his artery. However CHCC remains in support of Dr. Claassen’s recovery and we are hopeful that he is revived soon,” she said.

CHCC employees and its departments and health centers continue to hope and pray for Dr. Claassens’ quick recovery, she added.

“We are hopeful for Dr. Claassen’s quick recovery and we will continue to pray for him,” she said.

Muña noted that in providing help to the Rota Health Center, rotation will begin this week in hopes to alleviate RHC’s lack of physicians. *(With Jayson Camacho)*

will be meeting today, April 9, to work on finding and amending a part of the Administrative Code on cruelty laws.

“The law under the Administrative Code isn’t really precise so we’re taking Gibson’s emails and putting them all together and work on finding a way to amend these laws,” Marchadesch said.

Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan) said he is already looking into the law and has some people working with him to improve the law on animal cruelty and re-introduce it in the Legislature.

said the couple plans to take their case to federal court.

The U.S. District Court of Guam falls under the 9th U.S.

EX-VP

From Page 1

School System laptop for \$150.

Office of the Public Auditor investigator Thelma M. Mizer disclosed in her report that Priscilla T. Castro, 49, who was the then-vice president of Kagman PTSA during the 2012-2013 school year, admitted to having spent all of the PTSA’s money for her daughter’s graduation party, her house, her husband’s poker habit, and personal use.

Mizer said that Castro also admitted to pawning a Sony notebook computer owned by PSS for \$150 at 24 Hours Pink House Pawn Shop in Chalan Kanoa, reportedly to buy food for her family.

At yesterday’s bail hearing, Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman kept the \$10,000 cash bail imposed on Castro and barred her from having any contact with Kagman Elementary School and from

Circuit Court of Appeals, which has ruled in favor of gay marriage. Thompson said he expects the Guam court to follow

participating in any fundraising or holding public funds.

Preliminary hearing will be on April 17 at 9am.

Wiseman noted that Castro has numerous small claims pending in court for over 10 to 12 years, and has forgery and other criminal charges.

Police served Castro with an arrest warrant on Tuesday in Kannat Tabla on charges of theft and possession or removal of government property.

OPA investigator Mizer stated in her report that, on Aug. 11, 2014, PSS legal counsel Tiberius Mocanu provided OPA with information and documents relating to missing \$4,442.34 funds, that were under the custody of then-Kagman Elementary School PTSA vice president Castro.

The funds were raised during the school’s annual Cultural Day in June 2013.

Mocanu said that Castro admitted to using the funds for personal reasons and did not

naporn told *Saipan Tribune*.

“However, the CNMI will still be expressing concerns over the offshore construction described in the CJMT EIS. The military plan to dredge coral is a definite concern and BECQ will be commenting on it. The public comment period for the EIS allows us to express concerns on military land. As we go forward with federal consistency requirements, we will show how dredging such a large expanse of coral could have spillover effects for the CNMI.”

Unai Chulu

The EIS calls this reef area physically complex, with very deep, irregularly spaced spurs and grooves.

These groves interconnect with other grooves and create a network of tunnels, grottoes, fissures, and chimneys that penetrate from shallow reef to deep.

The EIS describes an in-water landing area for amphibious assault vehicles that would alter the limestone and coral reef of this sea floor.

The landing area would be contoured into a pile-armored ramp at a 15-degree slope, and would consist of “a gravel bed

the appeals court’s decision.

He said his clients are aware that the U.S. Supreme Court might rule on gay marriage

make the deposit to the PTSA account with a bank.

Mocanu also disclosed that Castro had with her one of PSS’ laptops that was assigned to her and used for Kagman Elementary School’s PTSA purposes and that she had pawned it.

Mizer said that during her interview with Castro on Oct. 9, 2014, she admitted that she used the \$4,442.34 to pay for her daughter’s graduation party, gave some of the money to her common-law husband so he could play poker, used \$500 to pay for her house, and the rest of the money was spent on personal use.

Mizer said that Castro also admitted pawning the PSS laptop for \$150 to buy food for her family and that she intended to get it back but by then it had already been sold.

Castro also stated that Education Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan informed them that the laptop was theirs to keep, and that she was never informed to return

atop” the coral base, and a “durable grooved concrete slab” designed to resist severe wave conditions.

Trenches with concrete anchors would secure the ramp. The ramp would be 656 feet long and average 160 feet wide with an anticipated dredge volume of 798,111 cubic feet.

Temporary causeways would be need for construction, in which “steel sheet piles and steel pipe piles would be installed” into the reef and penetrate about 40 feet into it.

These pipes would be removed after the 36-week construction. Excess dredge material could be re-used or disposed of in-water or upland.

The EIS finds, though, that construction will not significantly modify the shoreline coastal processes or trigger erosion at the beach.

The EIS says water quality effects like turbidity would be minimized. It says the “primary physical impact of in-water construction would be to permanently convert complex and variable reef habitat to an essentially flat surface bordered by disturbed areas of coral rubble, and scoured rock.”

this summer. But he said his clients are unwilling to wait. “They want equality now, not later,” he said.

the computer so she assumed it was her personal property.

Mizer said an employee of 24 Hours Pink House Pawn Shop showed her a bill of sale and receipt, showing that Castro pawned the laptop on July 18, 2013. On Nov. 1, 2013, a woman then purchased the same laptop for \$400 from the pawnshop. On Sept. 25, 2014, the woman pawned the same laptop back to 24 Hours Pink House’s branch in Garapan.

Mizer said she retrieved the laptop from 24 Hours Pink House Pawn Shop on Oct. 14, 2014.

Mizer said she reviewed the PTSA ledger books, receipts, and bank statements from June through August 2013 and found evidence to suggest that Castro did not deposit any PTSA fundraising money to the PTSA account with the bank either in cash or checks, totaling \$4,442.34.

Chief public defender Douglas Hartig was appointed as counsel for Castro.

The EIS notes that biological diversity and productivity within the impacted area would be diminished.

But construction would be “soft-start” so that fish could “have a chance to leave the area to avoid injury prior to the impact hammer operating at full capacity.”

The EIS finds that construction would cause temporary, as well as permanent, loss and degradation of coral reef habitat. Fish may be displaced. Coral reef would be permanently altered and removed. Changes to local fish populations would occur.

Citing studies that say the beach is “one of seven well-developed reef flats on Tinian, “the EIS finds that given the importance of this habitat as “Essential Fish Habitat” and its limited availability on Tinian, “the removal of the coral reef at this beach” during construction would result in “significant impacts to marine habitats.”

Fish loss would be roughly equivalent to loss of reef, the EIS says. Colonies of endangered coral species, *Acropora globiceps*, would also be significantly impacted by the construction.

ers on Tuesday to discuss the draft EIS.

Lawmakers raised almost the same concerns, particularly land use and leasing for Pagan.

A 30-day review period of the draft EIS has been opened to the public. Comments will then be heard in separate hearings on April 29 on Saipan, April 30 on Tinian, and again on Saipan on May 1.

Lawmakers also said there might be a need for an outside expert to study the EIS as well as more time for the public to read and review the 1,000-page document.

ANGRY

From Page 1

children’s wellbeing.

“It’s not necessary. I don’t know. I can’t sleep. I just want to be awake for my kids all the time, watching them even in their sleep,” she said.

Mrs. Claassens said their son is in denial and would ask her permission if he is allowed to get mad at Pono, the nickname of suspect William Mathewson.

“He has no clue. Oftentimes he sits in the corner, breaks down and wants his Dad. But he is a brave boy. Hopefully I will not have to deal with trust issues as a result of what he saw,” she said.

Mrs. Claassens said she can’t rationalize why Mathewson, who is such a good friend of her husband, would do such a horrific act.

Mathewson, a 36-year-old farmer/fisherman, allegedly stabbed Dr. Claassens in the neck with a fishing spear and whacked his head with a chain and a big black pot.

The victim’s son reportedly saw the attack as he was about to serve coffee to his father and Mathewson.

The attack happened in the back of the doctor’s house in Teneto Village on Rota on Saturday morning.

When police arrested Mathewson at the scene, he reportedly smelled of alcohol. He reportedly told a police officer that he wants to watch the doctor die and that’s what Dr. Claassens gets for destroying his family.

Dr. Claassens is the only physician assigned at the Rota Health Center.

Mrs. Claassens told *Saipan Tribune* that when the incident happened, she had just arrived in Guam from a trip to Honolulu. She said she heard about the incident on Saturday at the Guam airport while she was on her way to Rota to see her family.

HUMANE

From Page 3

similar to Guam’s. One is a misdemeanor, which carries up to one year in jail and a \$2,000 fine. The felony level typically carries up to a \$10,000 fine and up to five years in jail.

“So Saipan no doubt will need to work on its laws,” she said.

In a separate interview, Saipan Mayor’s Office Dog Control Program manager Spencer Marchadesch said that they have received Gibson’s emails and

MILITARY

From Page 1

now poring over in detail in time before its 60-day comment period ends.

The ramps would be “constructed on federal submerged lands,” the military says, and would support training on the military leased land on Tinian.

But when sought for comment, the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality said this could still have a “spillover effect” for the CNMI.

In 2014, President Barack Obama exempted from transfer to the CNMI the submerged lands adjacent to the islands of Tinian and Farallon de Medinilla, a routine-bombing area. Obama, in his proclamation, called these lands “essential for ensuring” that the U.S. forces are adequately trained and “ready to respond immediately and effectively” to national order and security.

“Unfortunately the submerged lands next to Tinian were not conveyed back with the other submerged lands in January 2014,” BECQ federal consistency specialist Megan Jungwiwatta-

GOVT

From Page 1

Rota), among others.

A statement from the Office of the Lt. Governor said the meeting provided members of the administration an opportunity to address the CJMT staff who led the drafting and coordination of the CJMT DEIS/OEIS.

Members of the administration raised key points during the discussion, including the unconstrained training concept that states that 45 weeks of live-fire training is being considered

by the DEIS/OEIS for the island of Tinian and 40 weeks on Pagan; the desire for the military to acquire the entire island of Pagan for training activity; the rights of the residents of the island of Pagan to resettle on their homeland; the use of public lands and ground water on Tinian; and the significant impact to airspace use at both the Saipan and Tinian airports.

The statement further said a crucial discussion point centered on the Covenant agreement made 38 years ago in which the people of the Northern Mariana Islands entered

into a political relationship with the U.S. with the presumption that the U.S. military would not seek to acquire additional interest in real property beyond two-thirds of Tinian and Farallon de Mendenilla.

Members of the administration stressed the desire for the rights of the people of Tinian and the Northern Islands to be adequately cared for, the statement said.

The EIS team, led by CJMT-EIS project manager Sherri Eng and Tim Robert, the CNMI Joint Military Training-EIS project team leader, met with lawmak-

Red Cross Walkathon raised \$70K; had 2,800 walkers

By **JAYSON CAMACHO**
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The American Red Cross-NMI Chapter's signature fundraising event, the 29th Annual Red Cross Walkathon, raised a total of \$70,000. The 2015 edition

of the walkathon was held last March 21 and attracted more than 2,800 participants.

The local chapter of the American Red Cross said that fundraising totals and the number of participants were both up from last year's numbers.

In 2014, a total of 2,512 took part in the walkathon and raised \$65,000. The walkathon's 2013 edition raised \$67,000, albeit with more participants at 3,150 walkers.

The school that came with the largest contingent was

Oleai Elementary School with 398 students, followed by William S. Reyes Elementary School with 206 students, and Koblerville Elementary School with 160 students.

OES and WSR also had the largest number of partici-

pants last year.

Schools with the largest amount of donations included OES with \$11,080.63, good for first place. WSR came in second with \$4,316.60, and San Vicente Elementary School came third with \$4,009.15.

The CNMI Head Start Program also had its fair share of winners. JMR Head Start Center came in both first place for the largest number of walkers and largest donation. They raised \$1,294.25 and had 60 walkers.

Students from various schools also raised hundreds of dollars themselves. OES' Isabel Carreon raised the most once again with \$643, followed by Mt. Carmel School's Matthew Sablan, who also won last year, with \$400; OES' Madilyn Flores, \$346.37; OES' Jonathan Lisua, \$295; Whispering Palms School's Katie Rose James, \$292; Brilliant Star's Conall KW Hartig, \$290, and Agape Christian School's Yete Zhang, \$287.91.

They will each receive a Pacific Islands Club Waterpark pass, \$5 gift card from Subway, Regal/Hollywood Theater tickets, and a McDonald's gift certificate for raising over \$75.

Individuals and businesses were awarded as well: Chris

Tenorio received first place for donating \$217, while Fiesta Resort and Spa won first place for the largest number of participants.

In an earlier interview, ARC-NMI Chapter executive director John Hirsh said the donations will be used for the chapter's working fund, which finances their various programs that benefit the community, including first aid and CPR certification courses, disaster response, and emergency preparedness.

Contributions that were collected was a result of the ARC-NMI Chapter's collaboration not only with the Public School System and private schools in the Commonwealth but also with various organizations that joined and community members from Saipan, Rota, and Tinian as well.

The ARC-NMI Chapter would also like to thank all of their business partners, donors, school coordinators and volunteers for their dedication to helping the Red Cross. Special thanks goes out to the CNMI Public School System leadership and their support for the annual event. Extra special recognition goes to Diana Camacho from Ayuda Network for keeping the partners and agencies up to date prior to the walkathon.



US SECRETARY OF THE NAVY VISITS FSM

U.S. Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus visited Pohnpei on April 4-5. During his visit, he met with FSM President Emanuel Mori and other members of the FSM Cabinet. Accompanied by Foreign Affairs Secretary Lorin Robert and Ambassador Doria Rosen, he also laid a wreath at the airport, and paid his respects to the 10 FSM citizens who paid the ultimate price while serving in the U.S. military. This was Mabus' second visit to the Federated States of Micronesia.

U.S. EMBASSY KOLONIA

Fitial, OPA again ask for more time as negotiations continue

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former governor Benigno R. Fitial, through his counsel, and Office of the Public Auditor legal counsel George Hasselback again asked the Superior Court yesterday to give them more time to possibly resolve the criminal case against Fitial without going to trial.

At a status conference, Fitial's counsel, Stephen Nutting, and Hasselback asked for a continuation of the trial setting con-

ference in two weeks as their negotiations are still ongoing.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman accepted the request and set a trial setting conference for April 29, 2015.

Nutting told *Saipan Tribune* after the brief hearing that Fitial is still in the Philippines. He refused to comment further.

Nutting recently flew to Manila, Philippines, where he met with Fitial to discuss the case.

At a status conference last March 18, Nutting and Hasselback asked the court to postpone the status conference. Wiseman agreed and set the status conference for yesterday.

Last Feb. 18, Hasselback and Nutting informed Wiseman about their intent to hold talks to resolve the case. Wiseman gave them more time and ordered them to return to court on March 18, 2018.

Wiseman had granted Hasselback's motion to reconsider his dismissal of the criminal charges against Fitial. In granting the motion, the judge basically reinstated four of the 13 criminal charges against the former governor.

The remaining four charges against Fitial refer to alleged criminal activity associated with the police escort provided former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham in August 2012 that shielded him from being served with penal summons.



Fitial

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP15-OVR-062**

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 29, 2015

TIME: 10:00 A.M.

**"STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES, A PROJECT UNDER THE
OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION"**

THE SCOPE OF WORK IS AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER **MARCH 26, 2015** AT THE DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DRIVE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-SUBMISSION ORIENTATION WILL BE CONDUCTED AT THE OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION NAVY HILL, SAIPAN, ON **APRIL 14, 2015 AT 10:00A.M. LOCAL TIME**. PROSPECTIVE OFFERORS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND THE ORIENTATION.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP SHALL BE DIRECTED TO MS. ARLENE KAY A. YAMAGATA, M.S., CRC, OVR DIRECTOR, AND TRANSMITTED VIA E-MAIL TO nmidir@ovrgov.net NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, **APRIL 20, 2015**. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SHALL BE SHARED WITH OTHER PROSPECTIVE PROPOSERS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ARLENE KAY A. YAMAGATA, M.S., CRC
DIRECTOR, OVR

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Board of Parole
P.O. Box 502641 Saipan, MP 96950-2641
Tel. Nos.: (670) 664-3300 • 3302 • Fax: (670) 664-3310
E-mail: govbop@pticom.com

**PUBLIC NOTICE
Executive Meeting**

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Ralph DLG. Torres, through the Board of Parole Office, and pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section II of the "Open Government Act of 1992". Notice is hereby given that an Executive Meeting is scheduled for April 16, 2015 (Thursday) beginning at 9:00 A.M., at the Jose M. Sablan Building, Department of Public Safety, Training Room, Susupe, Saipan.

The following items are included in the agenda:

- Preliminary Matters**
 - Call to order
 - Introduction to New Rota Board Member
RE: Ike Mendiola
 - Roll Call
 - Presence of Quorum
- Consent Items**
 - Review / Adoption of Agenda
 - Adoption of Executive Meeting Minutes – December 11, 2014
- New Business**
 - Review Applicants for Chief Position
 - Adoption of New Board of Parole Rules and Regulations
- Old Business**
 - Board Policy on the Conduct of Executive Meeting and Parole Hearings
 - Board's Drug Testing Policy
- Miscellaneous**
 - Other Matters
- Adjournment**

/s/ Ramon B. Camacho
Chairman

Date: 04/07/15

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Board of Parole
P.O. Box 502641 Saipan, MP 96950-2641
Tel. Nos.: (670) 664-3300 • 3302 • Fax: (670) 664-3310
E-mail: govbop@pticom.com

**PUBLIC NOTICE
Parole Hearing**

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Ralph DLG. Torres, through the Board of Parole Office, and pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section II of the "Open Government Act of 1992". Notice is hereby given that a Parole Hearing is scheduled for April 15, 2015 (Wednesday) beginning at 9:00 A.M., and if needed be to continue on April 16, 2015 (Thursday) at 9:00 A.M. at the Jose M. Sablan Building, Department of Public Safety, Training Room, Susupe, Saipan.

The following items are included in the agenda:

- Preliminary Matters**
 - Call to Order
 - Roll Call
 - Presence of Quorum
- Consent Items**
 - Adoption of Agenda
- Parole Application**

1. John Carreon	BOP No. 15-001	Criminal Case No. 12-0030(T)
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- Re-Parole Application**

1. Mariano SN. Camacho	BOP No. 13-001	Criminal Case No. 89-20 / 22f / 90-84 91-20 / 36
2. Robert Jake Palacios	14-006	13-0011A
3. Shawn Cabrera Appleby	10-010	96-319
- Miscellaneous**
 - Other Matters
- Adjournment**

/s/ Ramon B. Camacho
Chairman

Date: 04/07/15

COMMONWEALTH CASINO COMMISSION
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
P.O. Box 500237, Saipan, MP 96950

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act, Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Ralph DLG. Torres through the Commonwealth Casino Commission ("Commission"), hereby give notice that the Commission has scheduled a meeting on Monday, April 13, 2015 at 10:00 am at the Governor's Conference Room located in the first floor of the Juan A. Sablan Building on Capitol Hill, Saipan. The following agenda will be discussed:

- PRELIMINARIES:**
 - Call to Order
 - Roll Call
 - Adoption of Agenda
 - Adoption of Minutes – February 19th & 26th, 2015
- REPORTS:**
 - Report by the Chairman
 - Report by the Executive Director
- OLD BUSINESS:**
 - Best Sunshine International – Updated Submission
 - Commission FY2016 Budget
- NEW BUSINESS:**
 - Resolution or Formal Action on Standards – Casino Equipment, Table, Devices
 - Proposed Amendments to P.L. 18-56
 - Establishment of a "Public Affairs & Media Relations" Officer Position for the Commissioner
 - Election of Officers for May 1, 2015 through April 30, 2016 Term
* Chairman, * Vice Chairman, * Secretary, * Treasurer, &
* Public Affairs & Media Relations
- PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- EXECUTIVE SESSION**
- MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS**
- ADJOURNMENT**

(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in Executive Session.)

/s/ JUAN M. SABLAN
Chairman

Igisomar: Focus on medicinal use of marijuana

By JOEL D. PINAROC
joel_pinaroc@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sen. Sixto Igisomar (R-Saipan) is appealing to the public to focus their comments on the medicinal—and not recreational—use of marijuana at the public hearing for the proposed marijuana legalization bill.

The hearing will be held this Friday, 6pm, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, and will be the first of two hearings on Saipan for the controversial bill.

“I would like to appeal to the public to please keep their comments on the medicinal use of

marijuana and not on its recreational use,” Igisomar said.

The senator said he wants to make it clear that Senate Bill 19-06 proposes to legalize the medical use of marijuana and not its recreational use.

The lawmaker said he has gotten a significant number of comments from CNMI residents wanting to find an alternative to expensive medical treatments for terminal diseases.

“This is a medicinal forum for medicinal marijuana. It is not for recreational and it is not for



Igisomar

waiver or moratorium. Please keep [comments on] recreational and moratorium out of this public hearing,” the lawmaker stressed.

He said talks on recreational or on moratorium of marijuana might just “dilute” the

real purpose of the hearing, which is reach out to those who need marijuana for medicinal purposes.

Igisomar also said he respectfully asks the public or individuals “not to campaign on the recreational use of the marijuana.”

S.B. 19-06 was introduced in January. Public hearings were

then scheduled for Saipan, Rota, and Tinian.

At the first public hearing on Rota, one of the comments came

CRIME OF THE WEEK

Armed robbery at SV gas station

NMI Crime Stoppers is seeking the public’s help for information on an armed robbery incident that occurred at the Mobil gas station San Vicente.

On Tuesday, April 7, 2015, at about 9pm, police officers responded to a reported armed robbery incident at the Mobil gas station, San Vicente.

Police learned that the male

from long-time CNMI resident Ambrose M. Bennett, who supports the recreational use of marijuana. He has also been a prolific

letter writer to both newspapers’ Opinion section.

Bennett, in a written testimony, sent a lengthy discourse on marijuana and its uses, and how it can be regulated. One topic discussed was what he called “moratorium methodology.”

dark-colored short pants, and a multi-colored bandana wrapped around his face, and also wielding a knife. Both suspects fled the area on foot traveling north away from the gas station.

The amount stolen from the gas station is estimated to be at over \$200 cash. No one was injured in the robbery.

DPS and Crime Stoppers need your help. Please contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 should you want to remain anonymous or use our website at www.nmicrimestoppers.net Crime Stoppers pays up to \$1,000 for any information leading to an arrest. It pays to call. (*Crime Stoppers*)

cashier, 42, was in the cashier booth when the first suspect—described as a teenage male with dark skin and wearing a red and white dotted bandana covering his face, and a red T-shirt—entered the cashier’s booth, threatened to stab the victim with the knife, and shouted “Give me your money!” The victim handed him cash from the register and the suspect fled on foot running north away from the gas station.

Another witness said there was a second suspect who was standing as a lookout. He was described as a teenage male wearing a green short-sleeved shirt,

‘Negotiating to Win’ workshop on April 21

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will hold a three-hour workshop focusing on gaining the skills, insights and competencies required in sales negotiations in various situations. Attorney Cathy Cachero of Marianas Legal Strategy Group will present different styles of negotiating and how to find the style that works best for you. Hans Mickelson (CNMI Sales, Marketing, Wireless, & Roaming manager) of IT&E will discuss overcoming objections and getting the deal closed. The seminar will be held from 9am to noon on Tuesday, April 21, 2015, in the Chamber conference room (Suite 315 Marianas Business Plaza).

Negotiation is not just a process; it’s an attitude—and one that we all can learn. Nego-

tiation is inevitably at the heart of the process, but few people understand the structure, techniques, and approaches available to them as they seek to positively influence an outcome. The workshop should benefit not only sales people but also those responsible for negotiating the best possible terms of agreement for their organization.

Registration for the seminar is now being accepted at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce office at the Marianas Business Plaza Suite 315, 3rd floor. Call 234-7150 or e-mail coordinator@saipanchamber.com to reserve your attendance. Registration fee for Chamber members is \$25; \$35 for non-Chamber members. Seating is limited to the first 40 paid attendees. (*SCC*)

Notice Of Zoning Board Meeting

The regular meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Thursday, April 16th, 2015 at 5:00 PM, Multipurpose Center, Susupe
(Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • e-mail: www.zoning.gov.mp)

A. Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of March 19, 2015 minutes
5. Public Comments (not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)

B. Public Hearings

1. **Conditional Use Application #2015-1151:** Lee Young Chul is proposing to construct a one storey commercial building for office use. This use is classified as “Office” and is permitted in this district as a Conditional Use. This proposal will be situated on TR 21732-23. This lot is located along Isa Drive, west of the San Vicente post office. It is zoned as Rural.
2. **Conditional Use Application #2015-1369:** Huang Shun Corp. dba: Popz Noni Manufacturing is proposing to manufacture Noni products. This use is classified as Manufacturing and Processing and will be situated on lot EA 444-4-R2 along Texas Road behind the Marianas Business Plaza. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.
3. **Conditional Use Application #2015-1279:** Saipan International Shooting Range is proposing to operate an indoor/ outdoor shooting range. This use is classified as “Amusement, Outdoor” and is permitted in this district as a Conditional Use. This proposal is located on lot 1673 (TD 343) in Kanat Tabla at the former shooting range facility. This area is zoned as Rural.
4. **Conditional Use Application #2014-3520:** Carmen Safeway Enterprises Inc. dba Borja Funeral Home is proposing to operate a funeral home with crematory services on lots 006 H 11 and 006 H 30. This use is classified as “Funeral Homes” and is permitted in this district as a Conditional Use. This area is located along Beach Road, Susupe, north of Bank of Saipan, and east of Aquarius Beach Tower. It is zoned as Village Commercial.

C. Communications/ Reports
D. Old Business
E. New Business

1. Office Operations Report (Permit and Enforcement)

F. Executive (Closed) Session.
G. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Administrator, Therese T. Ogumoro, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
Saipan International Shooting Range

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Saipan International Shooting Range is proposing to operate an indoor/ outdoor shooting range. This use is classified as “Amusement, Outdoor” and is permitted in this district as a Conditional Use. This proposal is located on lot 1673 (TD 343) in Kanat Tabla at the former shooting range facility. This area is zoned as Rural.

Date: April 16th, Thursday
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Multipurpose Center, Beach Road, Susupe

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments shall be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan no later than 4:30pm, April 14th, 2015 or via email to therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, or US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Saipan Zoning Law of 2008).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
Carmen Safeway Enterprises Inc. Db: Borja Funeral Home

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Carmen Safeway Enterprises Inc. dba Borja Funeral Home is proposing to operate a funeral home with crematory services on lots 006 H 11 and 006 H 30. This use is classified as “Funeral Homes” and is permitted in this district as a Conditional Use. This area is located along Beach Road, Susupe, north of Bank of Saipan, and east of Aquarius Beach Tower. It is zoned as Village Commercial.

Date: April 16th, Thursday
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Multipurpose Center, Beach Road, Susupe

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments shall be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan no later than 4:30pm, April 14th, 2015 or via email to therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, or US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Saipan Zoning Law of 2008).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
Huang Shun Corp. Db: Popz Noni Manufacturing

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Huang Shun Corp. dba: Popz Noni Manufacturing is proposing to manufacture Noni products. This use is classified as Manufacturing and Processing and will be situated on lot EA 444-4-R2 along Texas Road behind the Marianas Business Plaza. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.

Date: April 16th, Thursday
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Multipurpose Center, Beach Road, Susupe

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments shall be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan no later than 4:30pm, April 14th, 2015 or via email to therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, or US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Saipan Zoning Law of 2008).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
Lee Young Chul

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Lee Young Chul is proposing to construct a one storey commercial building for office use. This use is classified as “Office” and is permitted in this district as a Conditional Use. This proposal will be situated on TR 21732-23. This lot is located along Isa Drive, west of the San Vicente post office. It is zoned as Rural.

Date: April 16th, Thursday
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Multipurpose Center, Beach Road, Susupe

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments shall be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan no later than 4:30pm, April 14th, 2015 or via email to therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, or US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Saipan Zoning Law of 2008).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

Man who robbed poker arcade pleads guilty

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_deltorres@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Eric Nick Narruhn, a 28-year-old man who disguised himself as a woman to rob the Star Poker in Chalan Lau Lau in January pleaded guilty yesterday to a theft charge as part of a plea deal.

He will be sentenced on July 22, 2015 at 9am.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho or-

Saipan Agricultural Fair to be held on June 27

At their April 7 meeting, the Saipan Agricultural Fair Association decided to hold this year's fair on June 27, a Saturday. According to newly elected SAFA president Michael Ogo, June is the month with the most crops available on island. The decision allows farmers 90 days to produce fruits and vegetables for the competition.

The association hopes to receive funds from the Saipan and Northern Island Legislative Delegation to help offset the costs of the fair. Sales of advertisement pages and vendor fees will also help to compensate costs. SAFA is seeking for the following sponsorships: Platinum, \$5,000; Gold, \$3,000; Silver, \$2,000; and Bronze, \$1,000. Interested donors may contact SAFA at 664-8512. The business community has also generously donated in-kind and monetary donations in the past.

"This is a community event for the whole family and we welcome any in kind or monetary contributions from the public," Ogo said.

Farmers and ranchers are encouraged to start preparing their crops and livestock for entry. Pre-registration and updated rule books will be announced soon. The 2015 Fair will take

dered the Office of the Adult Probation to prepare a presentence investigation report.

Narruhn appeared with his counsel, assistant public defender Matthew Meyer.

Assistant attorney general Chester Hinds amended the suit yesterday to charge Narruhn with only one count of theft. The original information charged the defendant with robbery and disturbing the peace.

Saipan Agricultural Fair to be held on June 27

place on June 27 at the 4-H Building in Susupe.

Ogo has been involved in previous Agriculture Fairs and is the Aquaculture Extension Agent within the Northern Marianas College CREES. Co-chairing the annual event is Manuel Tenorio, director for the Division of Agriculture. **(SAFA)**

Hinds said the Office of the Attorney General asserts that it is in the best interest of the government to amend the information to charge Narruhn with theft.

"After careful review of the evidence and additional investigation conducted by the Office of the Attorney General, the Commonwealth believes that the evidence is insufficient

to prove the original and remaining charges beyond a reasonable doubt as to the defendant," Hinds said in the government's request to amend the information.

Camacho granted the request. After filing the amended information, Narruhn and his counsel signed a plea agreement with the government.

According to the factual basis

Eucon International College becomes a university

Eucon International College is now Eucon International University.

In a letter dated March 16, 2015, Dr. Paul Boatner, president of Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools stated the following: "I appreciate the completeness of your proposal and the orderly manner in which the supporting documents were presented.

The materials were thorough, included all required approvals, and other documents required for the review of this proposed change. This letter serves as an approval of this proposal and, according to TRACS procedures, I will present it for information at the April 2015, Accreditation Commission meeting."

This recent development came after Eucon was approved

of the plea agreement, Narruhn stole \$541 from Star Poker on Jan. 27, 2015.

A police report states that Narruhn's wife, Realiza, who works as a cashier at Star Poker, identified her husband in the surveillance camera's footage of the robbery.

Pangelinan said a patrol police officer responded on Jan. 27 at 6:11pm to a report of robbery in progress at Star Poker.

A police sergeant met with the

cashier, Raquela Aldan, who reported that an unidentified man wearing a wig and with make up on robbed the establishment. The robber reportedly took \$541 from the cashier's box.

In an interview later with Narruhn, police said the defendant confessed rushing into the cashier's booth and telling the cashier to keep still as it was a holdup.

Narruhn said he was armed with a toy knife.

Ministry and Master of Science in Education to serve the needs of the CNMI and the Asia-Pacific region. The leadership of Eucon will continue to strive harder to improve the education industry in CNMI by offering more courses to the public. Eucon also offers undergraduate courses in the evening. For inquiries call 670-234-3203/7 or email info@eucon.edu. **(Eucon)**

Apex Builder's Inc. dba K Parts
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(02)Sales Person
Rate: \$6.05 - \$6.10 per hour
Must be a high school or college graduate with a minimum of 2 years' experience as a sales person. Able to sell merchandise, such as: light/heavy vehicles, motor vehicles, heavy equipment parts and appliances to consumers. Greet customers and ascertain what customers' needs and wants. Process cash or credit card payment.

(01)Housekeeper
Rate: \$6.05 - \$6.10 per hour
Must be a high school or college graduate or with a minimum of 2 - 5 years' experience as a housekeeper. Capable of performing light cleaning duties in order to maintain private households or commercial establishments in a clean and orderly manner. Duties may include: making beds, replenishing linens, cleaning rooms, halls and vacuuming.

(02)Machinist
Rate: \$6.10 - \$6.75 per hour
Must be a high school or college graduate or with a minimum of 2 - 5 years' experience as a Machinist. Capable of setting up and operating a variety of machine tools to produce precision parts and instruments. Preferably someone who can fabricate, modify, or repair mechanical instruments. May also be able to fabricate and modify parts to make or repair machine tools or maintain industrial machines by applying knowledge of mechanics, mathematics, micrometers or calipers.

The above positions will close on April 10, 2015. Interested applicants may apply at Apex Builder's Inc. office located at Tun Kioshi, Kileleman Rd. As Perdido, Saipan, MP 96950. A copy of police clearance must be attached to the application. Incomplete application will NOT be accepted. Skills testing may be required.

Apex Builder's Inc. dba K Parts
is an Equal Opportunity Employer



FIESTA
Resort & SPA
SAIPAN

is inviting qualified U.S. Citizens to apply for the following vacant positions

Position: International Cooks (25)
Qualifications: 2 years experience as a cook in a high volume restaurant or hotel. Must have problem solving abilities, be self-motivated and organized. Must be able to stand on feet for long periods of time. Must be flexible to work a varied schedule including early morning hours, nights, weekends and holidays.

Position: Demi Chef (3)
Qualifications: 4 years work experience in a high volume restaurant or hotel as a Demi Chef. Comprehensive knowledge of kitchen hygiene practices and occupational health and safety standards are essential. Proven track of food preparation, presentation and preservation knowledge is an essential. Must be a dedicated team player with the ability to work in a multicultural environment. Willing to work a flexible schedule including early morning hours, nights, weekends and holidays.

Position: Sous Chef (1)
Qualifications: 5years previous kitchen management/supervisory experience is required preferably from a large volume restaurant or hotel. Must have understanding and knowledge of safety, sanitation and food handling procedures. Able to work in a team environment; must have problem solving abilities, be self-motivated and organized. Committed to quality service and food and beverage knowledge. Ability to work calmly and effectively under pressure. Able to work a flexible schedule including early morning hours, nights, weekends and holidays.

Position: Electrician (1)
Qualifications: 5 years work experience in this field is required. Provide access for future maintenance and avoid unreliable wiring, consistent with verification and electrical codes, and other related duties as assigned. Capable of reading schematic diagram and electrical symbols, knowledgeable on industrial electricity, circuit breakers, switches and controls. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, nights, weekends and holidays.

Position: General Maintenance Worker (2)
Qualifications: 2 years work experience as a Handyman is required and preferably in a hotel or in a similar large building or complex with central plant. Willingness to work outside (if necessary) in inclement weather. Must be able to lift and carry heavy objects. Possession of a driver's license is essential. Perform work involving skills of two or more maintenance craft occupations to keep machines, mechanical equipment, or the structure of an establishment in repair. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, nights, weekends and holidays.

Position: Front Desk Manager (1)
Qualifications: Must have a minimum of three (3) years progressive experience in Front Desk supervisory level required preferably from a high volume hotel. Strong communication skills both oral and written and demonstrated leadership abilities are essential. Must be able to analyze data and make decision based on prior experience and knowledge of circumstances to prepare daily and weekly forecasts of expected arrivals and departures. Must have an energetic and dynamic personality and able to multitask. Must be able to work a flexible schedule including early morning hours, nights, weekends and holidays.

Position: Guest Relations Agent (1)
Qualifications: High School Graduate or equivalent. 1 year previous work experience as guest relations agent in a high volume or full service hotel is highly preferred. Language speaking skill in Japanese, Korean or Chinese is advantageous. Strong customer service and communication skills are essential. Must have good problem solving skills. Must be able to multi-task and is a team player. Knowledge of computer applications is required.

Position: Electrician (1)
Qualifications: 2 years experience as electrician in commercial, industrial and residential building electrical works is required. Must be able to work a flexible schedule including nights, weekends and holidays.

Position: Carpenter (1)
Qualifications: 2 years carpentry experience required. Incumbent in this classification is exposed to restricted movement, extreme temperature and intense noise inherent to carpentry positions. Must be able to lift and carry heavy objects. Must be able to work flexible schedule including weekends and holidays.

Position: Carpenter - Supervisor (1)
Qualifications: 3 years work experience in this field in a supervisor level is required. Must be able to lift and carry heavy objects. Incumbent in this classification is exposed to restricted movement, extreme temperature and intense noise inherent to carpentry positions. Must be able to work a flexible schedule including weekends and holidays.

Position: A/C Refrigeration Mechanic (1)
Qualifications: 4 years experience in this field is required. Must be able to read electrical wiring diagrams, and control diagrams. Must be able to troubleshoot refrigeration equipment. Must be able to obtain and maintain required certification in this field. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, nights, weekends and holidays.

Application forms may be obtained and submitted to our Security Office located on the South Wing of Fiesta Resort & Spa. Deadline for submission of applications to be considered is April 16, 2017.

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GPPC, INC.
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(10) Civil Engineering Technicians: \$6.25 - \$8.50/hour OR \$1,300 to \$2,500/month
Must be a college graduate with minimum of 2 years experience as a Civil Engineering Technician with knowledge on how to apply Theory and Principles of Civil Engineering in planning, designing and overseeing construction, structure maintenance and facilities under the directions of engineering staff or physical scientists.

(04) Mechanical Engineering Technicians: \$6.25 - \$8.50/hour OR \$1,300 to 2,500/month
Must be a college graduate with minimum of 2 years experience as a Mechanical Engineering Technician with knowledge on how to apply Theory and Principles of Mechanical Engineering in planning, designing and overseeing construction, structure maintenance and other facilities under the directions of engineering staff or physical scientists.

(10) Auto Body Repairer: \$6.10 - \$7.50/hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum 2 years experience as an Auto Body Repairer. With knowledge on how to repair and refinish automotive vehicle bodies and straighten vehicle frames.

(10) Truck Driver: \$6.10 - \$8.75/hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 2-5 years experience as a Truck Driver with knowledge on how to drive a Tractor Trailer or Trucks that has a capacity of at least 26,000 GWW for various construction materials transportation

(20) Plumber: \$6.10 - \$8.75/hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 2 years experience as a plumber with knowledge to assemble, install, alter and repair pipelines or pipe systems that carry water, steam, air and other liquids or gases. Able to install heating and cooling equipment and mechanical control systems and sprinkler fitters.

(07) Painter: \$6.10 - \$8.50/hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum 5 years experience as Painter. Knowledgeable on how to operate/tend various painting machines. Able to paint transportation equipment surfaces, such as automobiles, buses, trucks, trains, boats, airplanes and etc.

(70) Carpenter: \$6.10 - \$8.50/hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum 5 years experience as a Carpenter. With knowledge to construct, erect, install, or repair structures and fixtures made of wood, such as concrete forms, building frameworks, partitions, joists, studding, rafters, wooden stairways, window, door frames, and hardwood floors.

(10) Automobile Electrician: \$6.10 - \$7.50/hour
Must have at least 5 years work related experience. Able to diagnose and undertake electrical repairs on a wide variety of vehicles and heavy equipment. Knowledgeable on electric motor, alternator, starter and motor rewinding.

(20) Electrician: \$6.10 - \$8.25/hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 2 years experience as an Electrician. With knowledge on how to install, maintain, and repair electrical wiring, equipment, and fixtures. Able to install or service street lights, intercom systems, or electrical control systems.

(20) Heavy Equipment Mechanic: \$6.10 - \$8.50/hour
Must be a high school graduate with a minimum of 5 years experience as Heavy Equipment Mechanic. With knowledge on how to diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul automobiles, hydraulic, and pneumatic equipment; such as cranes, bulldozers, graders, excavators, trucks and conveyors, typically used in constructions.

(05) Diesel Mechanic: \$6.10 - \$8.50/hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 2 years experience as Mechanic. With knowledge on how to diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul automobiles, hydraulic, and pneumatic equipment; such as cranes, bulldozers, graders, excavators, trucks and conveyors, typically used in constructions.

(50) Heavy Equipment Operator: \$6.10 - \$8.75/hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 2 years experience as an H.E. Operator. With knowledge on how to operate several types of power construction equipment, such as motor graders, bulldozers, trenching machine, scrapers, compressors, pumps, derricks, shovels, tractors, or front-end loaders to excavate, move, and grade earth, erect structures, or pour concretes and etc.

(70) Mason: \$6.10 - \$8.25/hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 3 years experience as a Mason. With knowledge on how to smooth and finish surfaces of poured concrete; such as floors, walks, sidewalks, roads, or curbs using a variety of hand and power tools. Align forms for sidewalks, curbs, gutters, patch voids, and use saws to cut expansion joints.

(25) Welder: \$6.10 - \$8.75/hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 2 years experience as a Welder. With knowledge on how to use hand-welding, flame-cutting, hand soldering, or brazing equipment to weld or join metal components or to fill holes, indentations, or seams of fabricated metal products.

(08) Accounting Technician: \$6.10 - \$8.75/hour
College graduate with a minimum of 5 years experience as an Accounting Technician. Capable of performing combined routine calculations, posting and verifying duties to obtain primary financial data to maintain accounting records.

(05) Architectural Drafter Technician: \$6.10 - \$8.75/hour
College graduate with a minimum of 5 years experience as an Architectural Technician. Capable of preparing detailed drawings of architectural/structural features of buildings as well as drawings and photographic relief maps used in civil engineering projects such as highways, bridges and other public works. Knowledgeable on building materials engineering practices/mathematics used to complete drawings drafts.

(06) General Maintenance: \$6.10 - \$7.25/hour
High school graduate with a minimum of 5 years experience as General Maintenance, with knowledge on how to install equipment.

(02) Sheet Metal Worker: \$6.10 - \$7.50/hour
High school graduate with minimum 2 years experienced as a Sheet Metal Worker. With knowledge on how to install pre-fabricated sheet metal ducts used for heating, air conditioning or other purposes

(12) Steel Worker: \$6.10 - \$8.75/hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 5 years experience as a Steel Worker. With knowledge on how to rise, place and unite iron or steel girders, R columns and structural members to form a completed structures or structural frameworks. Able to erect metal storage tanks and assemble pre-fabricated metal buildings. Position and secure steel bars or mesh in concrete forms in order to reinforce concrete.

(05) Tower Crane Operator: \$6.10 - \$7.00/hour
High school graduate with a minimum of 2 years work related experience. Must be able to comply with all safety regulations and work with minimal supervision.

(01) Administrative Assistant: \$6.10 - \$7.00/hour
Must be a college graduate with a minimum of 2 years experience. Knowledgeable on construction business. Preferably someone who can operate Microsoft Office & Power Point Programs.

(02) Diesel Fuel Injection Pump Technician: \$6.10 - \$7.25/hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 5 years work experience on related field. With knowledge on repair of diesel fuel injection components including pumps, injectors and turbochargers. Able to diagnose, service, and maintenance of fuel injection systems.

(02) Rigger: \$6.10 - \$7.25/hour
Must be a high school graduate with 3 years work experience on related field.

(01) O.C. Asphalt Paving Technician: \$6.10 - 7.25/hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 2 years work experience on related field.

(01) Survey Crew Assistant: \$6.10 - \$6.50/hour
Must be a college graduate with minimum of 2 years work related experience. With knowledge of adjusting, operating, and surveying instruments such as prisms and electronic distance-measuring equipment. Perform calculations to determine earth curvature corrections, atmospheric impacts on measurements and placement of markers.

(02) Construction Superintendent: \$2,000 - \$2,500/month
College graduate or with a minimum 5 years experience as a Construction Manager. With knowledge to direct or coordinate through subordinate supervisory personnel in regards to maintenance of structures, facilities and systems. Participate in the conceptual development project and oversee its organization, scheduling, budgeting and implementation. Includes specialized construction fields such as carpentry or plumbing.

(02) Machinist: \$6.10 to \$6.75 per hour
Set up and operate variety of machine tools to produce precision parts and instruments. Includes precision instrument makers who fabricate, modify or repair mechanical instruments. May also fabricate and modify parts to make or repair machine tools or maintain industrial machines, applying knowledge of mechanics, mathematics, micrometers or calipers. Must be a high/ college graduate or with minimum 2-5 years experience as a Machinist

All of the above positions must be able to work flexible time. Interested applicants may apply at GPPC, INC. office located at As Perdido, Saipan. A copy of police clearance must be attached to the application. Incomplete application will NOT be accepted. Skills, testing maybe required. Deadline to submit an application will be on April 10, 2015.
GPPC, INC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

NMC 6th Annual Health Fair this Saturday



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A member of the Northern Marianas College Nursing Club applies an immunization shot to a health fair participant during last year's Health Fair. This year's 6th Annual Health Fair will take place on Saturday, April 18, 2015, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center from 8am to 1pm and will feature a 5K walk at 7am.

To increase awareness about healthy lifestyle habits and practices, the Northern Marianas College's Nursing Club is inviting members in the community to the 6th Annual Health Fair this Saturday, April 11, 2015, from 8am to 1pm at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

The Health Fair is also supported with the assistance of Subway/Foremost, Let's Move Marianas Campaign, the College Access Challenge Grant, Area Health Education Center, the Division of Public Health, and the Office of the Dean of Student Services.

Health Fair activities will run from 8am until 1pm and will also feature a 5K Walk starting at 7am. The first 20 participants who finish the 5K Walk will also receive T-shirt prizes. Entrance to the Health Fair and the 5K Walk is free.

In addition to the exhibits, there will be games and information booths, as well as free immunizations, screenings for blood pressure, height and weight, and blood glucose. There will also be various presentations and fitness classes from organizations like the Let's Move Marianas and Uncle Ben's Music and Dance Studio. The American Red Cross will be also demonstrating CPR techniques.

For additional information about the NMC Health Fair, contact the NMC Nursing Club at 237-6741/6743 or visit www.marianas.edu. (NMC)

US gives FSM \$17.5M in Compact impact payments



One of the school buses purchased for the Chuuk Department of Education. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Between Jan. 1 and March 31, 2015, the Federated States of Micronesia's Department of Finance received Compact Grant Assistance payments from the U.S. government totaling almost \$17.5 million. These payments were for Compact Sector Grants, Carry-Over Sector Grants, and Supplementary Education Grants:

- Health: \$ 5,913,842
- Education: \$ 5,364,300
- Supplementary Education Grant: \$ 2,231,296
- Public Sector Capacity Building: \$ 838,234
- Private Sector Development: \$ 542,415
- Environment: \$ 415,341
- Infrastructure: \$ 1,817,004
- Enhanced Reporting and

Accountability: \$ 376,389

■ Total Amount \$ 17,498,821

This amount is provided to the States of the FSM as follows:

- National Gov't: \$ 1,178,346
- Chuuk: \$ 6,885,431
- Kosrae: \$ 2,096,000
- Pohnpei: \$ 4,312,898
- Yap: \$ 3,026,146

New buses for Chuuk

The Office of Insular Affairs released \$105,371 to pay for four school buses and a flatbed truck for the Chuuk Department of Education, which arrived in Chuuk in February. The buses have a 35-student capacity. They will be used to transport students living within the town limits to the high school. (U.S. Embassy Kolonia)

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The CNMI WIC Program is looking for the following Translator:

- Chinese (Mandarin and Cantonese)
- Bangladeshi
- Nepalese

Requirement Qualifications:

- Fluent in and of the above languages both in oral and written.
- College degree related to the language and culture.
- Minimum 2 years experience as a professional translator for any of the above language.
- Basic Computer skills including MS Word, Internet, and Keyboarding

Please send your resume via email or fax along with the following requirement to juliei@cnmiwic.org. Fax No. (670) 664-4069 or drop it the Administrative Building at Upper Navy Hill, Bldg. N25, Mayoria Ave.

- Resume
- Copy of CNMI Driver's License and Passport
- Copy of Business License

Should you have any question, please do not hesitate to call Julie R. Inos at 664-4067 or 664-4070 or Ruth T. Sablan at 664-4076.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bank of Guam vice president/ CNMI regional manager Marcie Tomokane, second from left, presents the Bank of Guam donation to the 12th Annual NMC Foundation committee members and the president of the NMC Foundation, Joe Santos, second from right, and assistant VP/ Saipan branch manager Larry A. Philip, far right.

Bank of Guam donates \$2,500 to NMC Foundation for golf tilt

Bank of Guam recently presented a \$2,500 donation to the Northern Marianas College Foundation.

The donation is part of the company's sponsorship of the Foundation's 12th Annual Foundation Open Golf Tournament, which will be held on Saturday, April 18, 2015.

"We are proud to help the Northern Marianas College further its mission of helping CNMI residents improve their quality of life through educational advancement and professional development," said Marcie Tomokane, vice president/ CNMI regional manager of Bank of Guam.

The 12th Annual Foundation Open Golf Tournament will be held at the Saipan LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort (West Course) on Saturday, April 18, 2015, with a show time of 6am and a shotgun start at 7am. The tournament will follow a medal play format.

"We are extremely grateful for Bank of Guam's donation and continued support of the college and the NMC Foundation," said NMC Foundation

president Joe Santos.

The NMC Foundation is a non-profit organization whose goal is to raise funds to support the Northern Marianas College, the CNMI's lone postsecondary educational institution. The organization is composed of individuals who are dedicated and committed to ensuring that CNMI students receive the utmost support in pursuing their educational goals.

"Bank of Guam's contribution and steadfast support reflects the company's commitment to providing higher education opportunities for CNMI students," said NMC president Dr. Sharon Hart. "We are thankful for the company's contribution."

The entrance fee is \$95 per player. Payments for the entrance fee can be made at LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort or at the NMC Cashier's Office.

For more information on how to donate to the NMC Foundation or to register to play, log on to www.marianas.edu or call 234-5498 Ext. 6810/6811. (NMC)

4 Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged four Saipan beaches and is advising

the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

Affected sites are DPW Channel Bridge, American Memorial Park, Sugar Dock, and the Hopwood Junior High School School beach.

Samples collected from these locations contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Saipan's recreational beaches and storm drainage every Tuesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. (DEQ)

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



Happy 6th birthday to our first born princess, Kailani K. Laniyo! May you have a wonderful day and God bless you always! We love you, little Einstein! Hugs and kisses from MyLia, Boy, Daddy, and Mommy.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Congratulations



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From the management and staff of

AIUP ASSOCIATED INSURANCE UNDERWRITERS OF THE PACIFIC, INC.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

A secret society of virgins

By **BEN KOLTUN**
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

I belong to a secret society. In fact, it is such a secret society that I don't know any of the other members on my college campus. No, I'm not a hooded Klansman (irreconcilable differences). What I'm a part of is much more nefarious. No one, not even my parents, knows about my affiliation.

Yes, Ma, I'm a virgin.

To be clear, I am not a virgin by conscious choice—neither God nor my inner moral compass has told me thou shalt not consummate in vain. Quite the opposite. If I learned anything from the Blockbuster Entertainment Award-winning film “American Pie,” it's that I'm only going to be young once, so I can't let this opportunity go to waste.

It seems like many others have heeded this message. “Hooking up” no longer means connecting to an electrical power source. The conventional wisdom is that there's a highly prevalent hookup culture on college campuses. Apparently everyone is doing the deed while I'm left feeling like a dysfunctional outsider.

As such, part of me sees virginity as the monkey on my back; a successful trip to (insert fraternity party or dimly lit bar) will relinquish all frustrations of my manhood and lovability. No longer a virgin, I will feel a sense of belonging to the hookup culture with everyone else. I'll walk without the low self-esteem slouch and avoidant eye-contact that afflicts a lesser specimen. I'll finally be a man. Hear me roar!

However, while individual members are not known, the virgins walk among us at Northwestern University, where I'm a senior. In 2009 this secret society encumbered approximately 30 percent of the student body, the student newspaper reported. What's more, a 2013 survey of seniors at Harvard University indicated that the median number of sexual partners during their college tenure was one. Just one.

Furthermore, our sexual histories are more like sexual fictions. In an Ohio State study surrounding the behaviors of college students, men who thought they were connected to a lie detector reported having fewer sexual partners than other men. According to my OkCupid profile, I apparently prefer to sleep with someone after three to five dates. My life is riddled with these mistruths, which only exacerbate an already warped image of virginity.

So it may be time to challenge the stigma and deficiency that many of us conflate with not having sex. This requires me and others to revoke our secret society membership. Virginity, as a label, is neither good nor bad. It just is. Although uncomfortable, being able to talk about my virginity openly is a huge validation. It's not like I'm going to introduce myself as the Virgin Ben. I'd be stealing Mary's trademark, for one thing.

Virginity is just a place holder for many of the insecurities and frustrations of emerging adulthood. This is not a marginalized voice on campus, it is an unheard one. The more we can come to accept this new openness on virginity and all that it encompasses, the less of a stigma it will carry. The need to rid ourselves of such a pesky title will subside. A new voice surrounding hookup culture will be heard. A sense of belonging will be formed.

Again, this is no easy task. However, there is a reason why

See **VIRGINS** on Next Page

Autism Marpi run

April 9 is the 99th day of the regular year, 100th day on leap years. In the Islamic calendar, the lunar rotation aligns itself with the sun every 33 years. The Jewish lunisolar calendar combines both the longitudinal alignment of the sun to the phases of the moon so every four years of the solar leap year adds a day, while the 12-month lunar year on a leap year gets an additional lunar month.

China's lunisolar calendar in a 60-year cycle does the same where each year it holds a combination of one of the five basic elements—metal, wood, water, fire, and soil—in their *yin* and *yang* state, plus one of the zodiac signs: the rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, sheep, monkey, rooster, dog, and pig, thus 2015 is *yin* on wood in the year of the lamb!

But calendars are not our primary concern today, nor the numerology of April 9. Rather, it is autism in the CNMI (parents, call 664-4841 for info on early signs) that grabs our quiver.

We mentioned the alarming statistics of 1 child per 68 children diagnosed with ASD. The disorder was identified in China in 1982 while it was already causing heads to shake in the U.S. since 1940.

I was in the Marpi Walk earlier when hiking the incline toward Suicide Cliff was not exactly a Saturday picnic to a 64-year-old frame. The crowd that gathered at the Command Post that leads to the Banzai Cliff was a rowdy bunch appropriate for the lively occasion. It was a fun run of 30 who gasped fresh ocean breeze.

A crowd of 150 folks is expected to show up as liveliness escorts Saturday's scheduled Hot Dog Walk and Family Fun Run by members of ASCNMI, in tune with the island's month for triathlons, marathons, and intense aerobics, save in this case it is a race to understand the universe of the differently abled.

I have written once too often on the subject of autism and, yes, I happen to take it personally, separated from the presence of two offsprings diagnosed with ASD who lives with Mom in Ohio. The statistic on ratio means more than better tools at analysis. The situation shows pandemic incidence.

Autism's “Asperger syndrome” is in the ASCNMI vocabulary to name the higher functioning portion of the ASD range popularized by such movies as *The Rain Man* with Dustin Hoffman, and the witness of veterinarian Grandin Temple's *Thinking in Pictures*. Grandin affirms that she could not imagine herself to be anything but herself! Tom Thornburgh at NMPASI recently wrote of autistic persons who wore the diagnosis well with integrity.

Dustin and Grandin provide glamorous images of the spectrum, but bewildered and anxious parents remain at a loss to understand the cause and grope to manage the effects of autism's early development. Assistive websites have emerged that offers info on

By **JAIME VERGARA**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.



issues, strategies, tips, stories, and more.

Four categories assist to observe milestones that social scientists employ. They are: 1) delay or absence of social skills, 2) an inward but orderly patterns in play, 3) deficiencies, or sensitivity of *savants*, in sensual sharpness, and 4) a display of repetitive behavior.

Autism and Asperger's syndrome diagnosis arises from a range of indicators observed in a child's development and we know that no two children are ever the same. Categories used do not nail the cause and condition of individual cases; the neutral terms are no comfort to the parent who deals with bewildering behavior not quite par to the norm. At an earlier time, autism was secluded at the back of the house.

But if autism is the challenge of our times at the ground level, the more insidious incidence of chemical input into our human metabolism at the worldwide level is equally alarming. A website following sees no difference from experiments on *eugenics* that the lords of finances followed in the past to depopulate the world. Toxic chemicals abound.

We are constantly accosted by claims of conspiracy in an increasingly suspicious world so we grow weary of wild and fanciful claims, but a sobering account of the not-so-far-fetched stranglehold of financial systems on our lives is narrated in *thrive-movement.com*. The funny issue raised in a painfully funny way about the nation and personal debts in www.youtube.com/embed/Li0no7O9zmE is larger than just autism. The burden of debt is on the next generation!

(BTW, of walks and runs, Duke badgered Wisconsin, the latter duked out and bedeviled blue out of the NCAA trophy. Mitt Romney did better at prediction than BH Obama of the White House.)

But at Marpi Saturday, Autism Society CNMI walks on, or run for it! Parents of ASD-diagnosed children proceed and operate from adequacy and courage rather than cower in fear and scarcity. Freedom from fear is endearingly red-white-and-blue.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Tinilaika gi ‘Digital Age’

Ihinalom mafanana`an “digital age”, usun modetnu siha na atikulun komunikasion deste computer, iphone, laptop, ipad yan otru siha kosas dañkulu na tinilaika para u afuetsas gi kinalhulu man-hoben siha para mona.

Solu ma-esgaihon satton usun este na kosas siha finenina siempre u faliñgu i usun liñguahen tanu`. Kontodu konbetsasion familia pininu` adumididi`. Mauleg ta hasuye haf` taimanu` `nai usun este siha na modun komunikasion modetnu u bintaha para i natibu.

Gi hilu` este na pagyu sige famaguon-ta man-eyag finu` English kumu liñguahen satbasion fittunan niha. Taya` linachiña este. Kontodu i Chinu ha embrasa kabales na una` fan-eyag famaguon niha English kumu liñguahen enteru elmundu.

Puede ti ma-enturampe liñguahen natibu gi karera mona, uttimu sahyan kuttura yan tradision. Lamegai asunto-ta ni debi fotmat ta diskute gi halom hita mismu.

Mauleg i ma-abiban kutturan Chamorro giya Guam (Mes Chamoru). Lamegai sumañgan (gi television) na para u fan finu` Chamorro mientras malalapbla gi finu` Eñglis. Taya` binabaña. Lau para unna` seguru usun liñguahimu, tutuhon umusa antes de u tinake`. Muñga mapusturaye sa` taya` kampu! Yangin ti un` usa, pues siempre naufragu hau gi mismu liñguahimu.

Lokue`, debi u machule` asuntun liñguahe deste konbetsasion hulu` esta i finana`guen matuge` mismu liñguahe. Dañkulu na difirensia i dos attikulu. Mas fotmat i matuge` na finu` Chamorro ke otdinariu na konbetsasion. Chage mañgge` gi finu` Chamorro. Mas dispues lagse hau achog u fattu gi fotmat na inadiñgan siha gi fina` hunta.

I natibu antes man-fafacho`chu` layeye ginen gualu` familia. Megai antes man-hahanau para u gualu` dispues de eskuela yan finagpu` cho`chu`. Man-na`gasgas gi oriyen finanom siha ya ma-

Hot Dog Walk & Quiz Nite 4

By THOMAS M. THORNBURGH
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

The Autism Society of the CNMI is having two big events this month to promote the awareness and inclusion of people with autism in the CNMI.

The first one is the annual Hot Dog Walk! This year the Hot Dog Walk will be on Saturday, April 11, 2015, at 3pm. The Hot Dog Walk has been going strong for several years now. We begin with speeches by our officers and dignitaries. Then at 3:10pm, the walk begins at the Last Command Post in Marpi and goes up the hill to where the road splits to Grotto and Suicide Cliff roads. This location is 1.5 miles from the Last Command Post. Once there, you turn around and go back to the Last Command Post where hot dogs and water await you. After cooling off and enjoying your hot dog, we take a picture of everyone there. Then we hang out and enjoy the rest of the day with others from our community. Last year we had 113 folks sign up and do the walk. There will also be emergency responders there in case we need it. The bathrooms are open for our use and it is situated by the pavilion we use every year. So we hope to see you all there at 3pm at the Last Command Post this Saturday for the ASCNMI's Hot Dog Walk!

The other event is our signature fundraising event called “Quiz Nite” on May 2, 2015, at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan. This year we will have Quiz Nite 4! It is a night to get together with others in our community to eat dinner first from 6pm to 7pm, and then to challenge in trivia. There are 50 questions and five categories of 10 questions each. Half of the questions or 25 of them are related to autism and or other disabilities. The other half is random.

VIRGINS

From Page 10

Copernicus is such an important figure. The world, in fact, does not revolve around either you or me! This is especially easy to forget at Northwestern. Amid a seemingly uniform flock of Canada Goose-wearing, success-toting students, there is a little child inside each of us who yearns to be loved and accepted. Unzipping our jackets to expose our true, complicated selves can only enrich and deepen what is currently an important but very narrow dialogue surrounding hookup culture.

I know I will lose my virginity one day. When that day comes, I will still be the same old me, warts and all. In the meantime, I'll be looking for a new secret society to join.

Ben Koltun is a senior at Northwestern University. He wrote this for the Chicago Tribune.

assiste pinegsai antes de u bira siha para i gima` dispues de lemlem tautau.

Na`magof i manadan pinegsai mame manog, babue, yan `nos kuantos chiba. `An Sabalu kanaha` seguru na in` abahu nuebu na lugat para bai`n adelanta i hatdin familia. Deste sune, kamute, mendioaka, dagu, diffirientes klasen choda yan nika, tat ti in` tanom.

Ginen kusechan gualu` `nai in` kukubre i sumen dididi` na sueddon i amku`. Lau ayu solu remedio i para inna`e` animu gi gualu`. Dispues, guaha `nai in` dalalag peskadot siha man-chenchulu `sino panag. I dos lugat plaset man-hoben antes.

Sessu si biahu ha sahañg pinendan guihan pat katne gi hilu` foggun guafe gi kusina. Un` modun manala` piot gi tiempon uchan. Diberas ti man`li`e`yu` manñge` totche hina`men guihan yan katne. Entre matunu `sino ma-aflitu. Un` fadeni`i` dispues saulag yan maipen hinegsa. Dios mihu! Magpu` i nobena!

Gi pininu` ga`ga` tat kumu guaka, chiba yan babue, umeyag-yu` muna`gasgas munudensia, patas, ulu yan dadalag. Magahet na mi atburotu i man`fige` na boka natibu gi bandan preparasion.

Trabiha makat ma-upos i sabot tradisionat na preparasion motsiyas manog. Kaiha parehu yan ayu i mabalutan tin foil. Guaha `nai in` chage kumadon niyog i sisiug? Esta na`magodai agaga` kadoña. Dios tiampare na pairen boka!

Lau gi uttimu biahe `nai hu soda` este na guihan (medianu na sisiug) sumen guaguan. Dimas de bai` fahan hu birayu` para i gima` yah u chopchup kalulothu.

I man-amku` ginen isla dumimimoria makatdon guihan ni mapega tulanoche gi halom satten. Gi sigiente dia `nai pa`gu para u mutuiñg makatdon niyog. Dios mihu na manñge` katdu. Magahet na gai pau pachotmu yan kanaimu dispues de un` gulusune. Cha`mu

The hardest question from last year was how many circles make up the Olympic Games symbol and how are they arranged by color from the top row down. I believe no team last year, including the winning team from Kagman High, missed this question. Quiz Nite 1 and 2 were won by Mr. Mike White and his family. This year we hope for new teams with awesome names from various places in our community. We usually have school groups, families, co-workers, and people from all walks of life in the CNMI. So please come out and join us at the Fiesta Resort and Spa on May 2, 2015, from 6pm to 10pm. Tickets are on sale at NMPASI (235-7273/4) or at CDD (664-7001) at \$25 apiece. For each ticket sold, ASCNMI will make \$3, but it is about the awareness and friendships and not the money. Please come sup-

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Our attitude determines our altitude

Friday, April 10, is the day for all legalizers to show support for a moratorium on legalization. Everyone who has tried marijuana or uses marijuana and/or supports legalization needs to be at the Multi-Purpose Center at 6pm for the Senate hearing. If there was ever a time to show up and make a difference, this day is your chance to change the CNMI! The CNMI's attitude toward legalization will definitely determine our economic altitude so do we want to soar with the eagles as a leader in tourism in our region or continue to flounder in the sea of the world's economic markets for tourism?

America and the entire world is changing at a breakneck speed toward legalization so are we going to continue to live and function on “island time” which is late and last or do we start trying to catch up with the rest of American society? Our capitalistic (money) driven economy is fueled by products and services that compete but if our leaders don't lay the foundation for the CNMI to be competitive in the market places of our nation and the world, we will continue to be doomed to live a quality of life that is substandard to the rest of American society. We only need to look at our neighbors in Guam to know we have a long way to go in catching up with economic prosperity. Guam continues to beat the CNMI to the punch and I'm just wondering when our leaders are going to get it that we are in competition with Guam and we are losing big time. We need to be more competitive!

Prosperity has always been right around the corner but getting our leaders to take us in the right direction to turn the right corner is the

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



umatototga mañiku. Chagua hau ginen i tropa.

Sige ma-umenta i numeron man-daibites (type two) yan problemen kanset yan korason gi halom tautau-ta. Este na chinatsaga makat parehu ha` para i familia yan hospitata piot gi bandan gastu. Mauleg umana` guaha estuihu haf` pisun daibites, matai reñihion, yan amanu sessu `nai gaige i dichu problema.

Ma-umenta lokue` kanset pachot, guetgueru, yan estomagu ni finañgu ni usun pugua`, afog, pupulu, amaska yan chupa. Lamegai na famaguonta fuma` usu mafuyut chupa gi pigua` mañaña`. Kon-sidera problemen kanset antes de u fan echu tautau este siha na famaguon. Mauleg i mañaina uma-ataha este na bisu antes de u problema i patgon.

Huli`e` mana` suhan kihadas un` prohimu pot kanset pachot. Dispues, mafatinase fustisu na kihadas ginen plastek pot para u disiente ma-ataña i prohimu.

Este i matai reñihion ni fuetsau siempre un` mapega gi makinan daialasisu parehu yan mana`e` hau settifikun finatai. Mauleg `in konbetasione medikun miyu haf` man-homlu` siha na eksisium hinemlu` pot no u matai reñihion-mu. Makat na finapos gi katkuet manera parehu ha` para i malañgu yan familia.

port ASCNMI by making your own team and try to win a trophy for first place and \$500, second place and \$300, or third place and \$200. The most important thing is that we get together as a community to have fun and to share in the awareness of autism in our island community.

Thank you for your time and we hope to see you at both the Hot Dog Walk on April 11 at 3pm at the Last Command Post, and the Quiz Nite on May 2 from 6 to 10pm at the Fiesta Resort and Spa. On behalf of the officers and members of the Autism Society of the CNMI, we thank you all in our community for your continued support of autism in the CNMI.

Thomas M. Thornburgh is secretary of the Autism Society of the CNMI.






problem. The governor said we (the CNMI) are not ready for legalization without any kind of survey, public hearings or anything before the election. But now that he has asked for economic proposals, I can only hope for the sake of the CNMI that he will now take a second and more serious look at the full legalization issue as there is just too much \$\$\$, good skilled jobs, and prosperity at stake. Yes, there are even highly skilled jobs in the marijuana industry as even the cultivators are like “pharmacists” and must be trained. It is not as simple as planting a seed, watering it and watching it grow and we need literally hundreds of cultivators who can literally become millionaires over time. Wake up locals and don't let opportunity pass you by! This is the first time locals have a real legitimate chance to become self-made millionaires in a new industry, which is why the Senate hearing on Friday should be packed with locals asking for a moratorium on full legalization. This is your only chance, so *carpe diem*!

The attitude of the CNMI, especially among our leaders, has been too conservative, which is the main reason we are suffering economically and why our youth and many adults are continuing to leave for the mainland as fast as they can get a ticket. We are also wasting resources by addressing only medical use as the CNMI can use the same efforts, time and money to study medical, medicinal, recreational use and encourage local marijuana products that might have the potential for exporting to states that have legalized it. The CNMI must change our attitude and learn to “think outside-the-box” (break paradigms) if we are to ever find prosperity for the average local person. So give full legalization a chance and attend the Senate hearing this Friday and speak up and even bring a small sign supporting a moratorium for full legalization. Tell a friend to tell another friend to be there as everyone does not read the newspaper—so please pass this message on if you want a better CNMI!

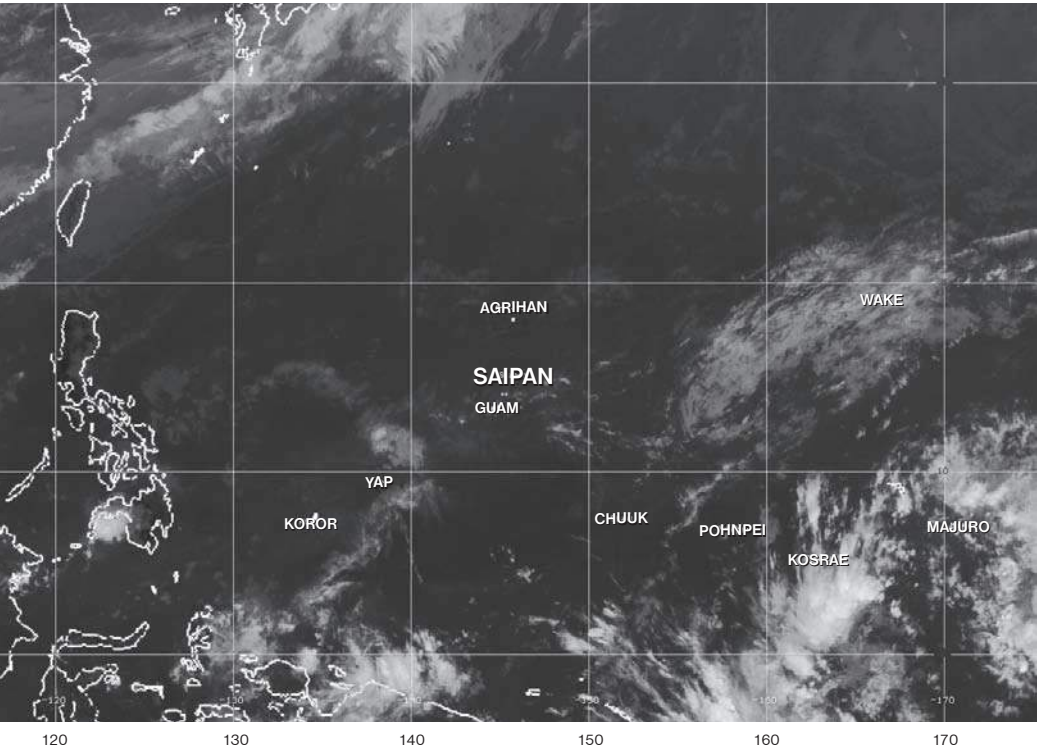
Ambrose M Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
 Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	 Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	 Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	 Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	 Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼75°	▲86° ▼75°	▲86° ▼75°	▲87° ▼75°	▲87° ▼75°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2015

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line extends west-southwestward from 22N180E to 17N167E to 12N158E to southwest of Guam near 12N142E. Cloudiness and scattered showers are found near and west of Wake Island within 150 miles of a line from 15N156E to 20N170E. Isolated showers and thunderstorms are occurring between 12N and 15N from 142E to 150E including the Mariana Islands. Low-level convergence is producing scattered showers north through northwest of Yap within 60 miles either side of a line from 16N134E to 11N141E. A trade-wind disturbance is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between the equator and 6N from 161E to 167E including Kosrae. Another trade-wind disturbance is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms in the area bounded by 10N167E to 9N180E to EQ180E to EQ174E back to 10N167E including Kwajalein and Majuro.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia			
Guam And Rota	Thundershowers	▲85	▼77
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲89	▼78
Yap	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼79
Pohnpei	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼76
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼81
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼80

Around the Globe			
Auckland	Cloudy	▲76	▼64
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲66	▼43
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲77	▼69
Honolulu	Windy	▲81	▼69
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲60	▼44
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲60	▼51
Manila	Mostly Sunny	▲91	▼73
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲66	▼46
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼73
New York	Showers	▲45	▼39
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲63	▼51
Paris	Sunny	▲66	▼41
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲57	▼45
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲65	▼46
Salem	Showers	▲59	▼40
San Francisco	Sunny	▲60	▼47
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲62	▼39
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲56	▼43
Washington, DC	Showers	▲54	▼47



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
5:40 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
10:56 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
6:03 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset		
Today	6:08 AM	6:31 PM
Friday	6:07 AM	6:31 PM
Saturday	6:07 AM	6:31 PM
Sunday	6:06 AM	6:31 PM
Monday	6:05 AM	6:31 PM

Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	10:33 PM	9:25A M
Friday	11:26 PM	10:16 AM
Saturday		11:10 AM
Sunday	12:19 AM	12:06 PM
Monday	1:12 AM	1:04 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

NEWS DESK

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 2, 2015

DEPARTURES			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:15pm	3:55pm	6, 7 via Rota
UA5078	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 5
UA5038	3:05pm	3:55pm	2, 4
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5039	2:15pm	2:50pm	6, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5039	3:20pm	3:55pm	6, 7

SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)			
DL287	6:05am	1:05am+1	2, 6 via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:20pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:20am	1, 2, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	5:25am	9:10am	3, 4
OZ624	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily
7C3401	4:20pm	8:05pm	1, 2, 4, 7
7C3401	5:25pm	9:10pm	3, 5, 6

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:00am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)			
MU764	1:30am	5:30am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:30am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/275	6:05am	9:30pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:10pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:10pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:15pm	9:10pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	3:05pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:05pm	8:50pm	5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:05pm	9:10pm	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:05pm	9:10pm	4 via GUM
OZ624/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/179	4:15am	9:55pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:00am	9:55pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	9:55pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5039/179	2:15pm	9:55pm	6 via Rota-GUM
UA5078/179	3:05pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ624/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS			
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	12:55pm	1:45pm	6, 7
UA5038	1:00pm	2:35pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5077	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 5
UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5
UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5038	1:00pm	1:35pm	2, 4

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA5038	2:00pm	2:35pm	2, 4

PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN			
DL298	4:30am	2:55pm	3, 7 via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	2:55pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ623	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
7C3402	9:30am	3:20pm	1, 2, 4, 7
7C3402	10:55am	4:25pm	3, 5, 6
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:55pm	3:10am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ704/623	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
DL276/288	9:30am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, ,3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA5071	10:05pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
PR110/UA5071	10:05pm	8:05am+1	1, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:25pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5039	10:25pm	1:45pm+1	6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:25pm	2:35pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:25pm	2:35pm+1	4 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5041	10:25pm	6:25pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:25pm	8:05pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:25pm	10:10pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/5038	11:30pm	2:35pm+1	2 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	11:30pm	2:35pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5041	11:30pm	6:25pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5077	11:30pm	8:05pm+1	2 via GUM
UA184/5043	11:30pm	10:10pm+1	5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ746/623	12:40am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	9:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA180/5071	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5039	9:55pm	1:50pm+1	6 via GUM
UA180/5077	9:55pm	2:40pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA180/5041	9:55pm	6:25pm+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5077	9:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA180/5043	9:55pm	10:10pm+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

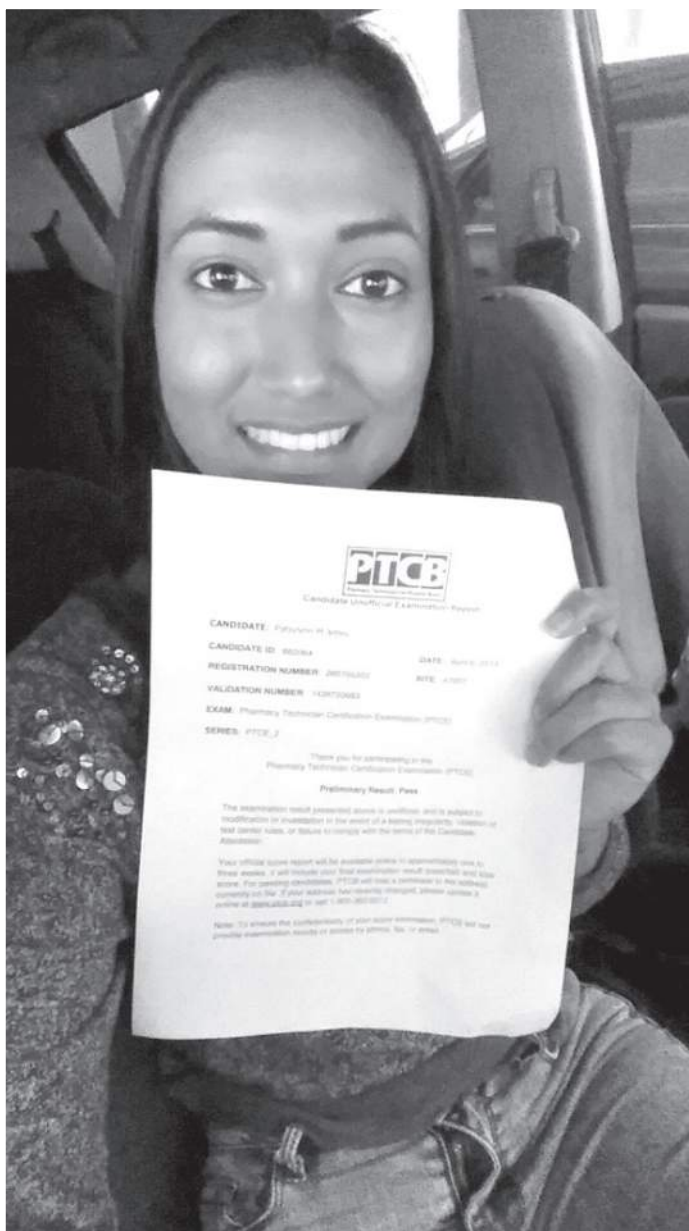
SAIPAN TO TINIAN		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
ROTA TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

DICTIONARIES DONATION

Whispering Palms, third/fourth grade class receiving dictionaries from the Rotary Club of Saipan. Back left is the classroom teacher: Nick Brennfleck, Back right is Rotary Club Member Michael Dilley, Back second to right is Ivan Ilmov.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BUDDING PHARMACIST

While some students spend their spring break hanging at the beach, watching movies, or playing video games, Brabu Pharmacy's Patsylynn Jetley went to Guam to take, and successfully pass, her U.S. Pharmacy Technician Certification. We're so proud of Patsy and her mentors, R.J. Dris and Kina Sablan, and glad she will have this certificate to take back to the University of Colorado in the fall to continue her studies in Pharmacy school.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BEACH CLEANUP

The NMI History class of Kagman High School did a beach cleanup at Tank Beach on April 1. The students were able to collect 30 lbs of trash. Front row, from left, Alam, Ms. Kaipat, Joan, and Alexia. Back row, from left, Joe, Jonas, Foyal, and Jr.

USAID and IOM assessing Typhoon Maysak damage

The United States Embassy in Kolonia, assisted by USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance, is coordinating the U.S. government's response to Typhoon Maysak. OFDA is conducting damage assessments in Chuuk and Yap states with the International Organization for Migration, USAID's on-the-ground partner in the FSM.

The FSM and state governments are providing logistics support to facilitate the movement of relief items throughout the affected areas. Under the leadership of each state's Disaster Coordination Officer in the Emergency Operations Centers, IOM is closely coordinating response work with state-level departments, the Micronesian Red Cross Society, and local partners. The U.S. Embassy, OFDA, and IOM continue to liaise with the FSM national government, donors, and key

partners in Pohnpei.

Preliminary reports from Chuuk and Yap states indicate extensive damage to crops, housing, and infrastructure, limited drinking water due to damage to water storage containers, and power and communications outages.

Through IOM, the U.S. maintains prepositioned relief items in the FSM. IOM is working with local officials to distribute these critical supplies—including water containers and plastic sheeting to address emergency shelter needs. Over the next few days, U.S. Embassy and OFDA staff will continue to conduct assessments and coordinate response efforts in response to the requests of FSM government agencies and humanitarian organizations. *(U.S. Embassy Kolonia)*



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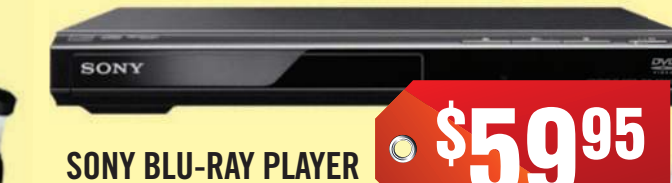
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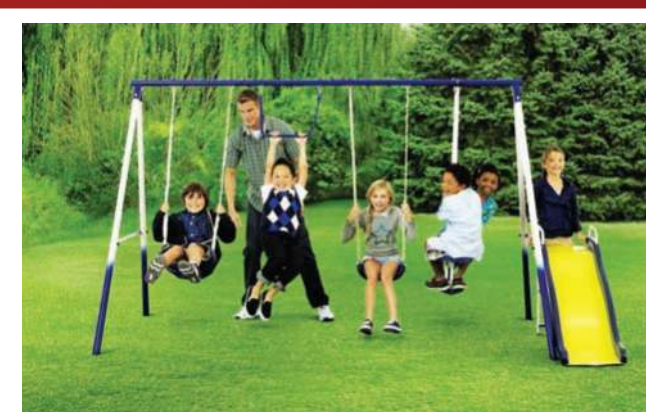
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Business

Summer gas prices expected to be 32 percent lower this year

NEW YORK (AP)—Drivers will see the lowest summer gasoline prices in about 6 years, according to the Energy Department.

The national average price is forecast to fall 32 percent from a year ago to \$2.45 a gallon between April and September, the period when Americans do most of their driving. That would mark the lowest seasonal average since 2009.

For the year, the department's Energy Information Administration expects gasoline to average \$2.40 a gallon, down from \$3.36 in 2014.

"It's a very realistic average, but like a lot of averages, it doesn't speak to some of the lumpiness you'll see," said Tom Kloza, chief oil analyst at OPI.

He expects the fluctuation in the price to be uneven, and said it could even dip below the \$2

mark within the period. He expects demand for gasoline to reach a high point in July and August.

The lower prices are a result of world oil supplies growing faster than demand because of higher production in North America and elsewhere. That dynamic has been depressing the price of crude oil. But, the Energy Department warned that the forecast could substantially change if oil-related sanctions against Iran are lifted as part of ongoing negotiations. That country is believed to hold at least 30 million barrels of oil in storage.

The price of Brent crude, a benchmark used to price oil used by many U. S. refineries and the most important factor in gasoline prices, is forecast to fall 40 percent this year.

U.S. drivers are expected to

consume slightly more gasoline, a 1.6 percent increase, during the summer. But gasoline expenditures by household are expected to be the lowest since 2004, according to the EIA, with people spending about \$700 less on gasoline in 2015.

The average price of gasoline in the U.S. was \$2.38 a gallon Tuesday, down 33 percent from last year, according to AAA and GasBuddy.com.

Over the past six months, most Americans have kept their savings from cheaper gasoline, instead of spending the proceeds. The personal savings rate climbed to 5.8 percent in February from 4.4 percent in November. Economic growth has been limited because of the choice to save, since consumer spending accounts for roughly 70 percent of U.S. economic activity.

Can phone companies do more to block robocalls?

WASHINGTON (AP)—Jeri Vargas put her elderly mother on the "Do Not Call" list years ago. So why is the 88-year-old woman with Alzheimer's disease still getting several recorded phone calls a day pitching her everything from vacation cruises to medical alert devices and fire extinguishers?

The Federal Communications Commission has been asked to consider the question of whether phone companies could do more to stop the onslaught of "robocalls," the automated phone calls favored by scammers. Since the convergence of Internet and phone lines, it's become easy to blast out hundreds of thousands of calls in a matter of minutes to see who takes the bait. The question of whether these calls

can be blocked has never been more pressing than around tax season, when many pretend to come from the IRS.

The phone companies say they worry that automatic call blocking might run afoul of laws requiring them to connect phone calls and have asked the FCC to clarify that it doesn't. Many carriers offer call blocking services to consumers, sometimes for a fee. But they also don't want regulators to create any hard-and-fast rules, which they say could be difficult to implement.

Consumer groups counter that the phone companies are dragging their feet for no good reason and that, once given the green light from the FCC, could block most robocalls if they wanted.

"It is time for AT&T to provide free, effective solutions to this problem immediately, so that unwanted robocalls are stopped before they reach us," wrote Tim Marvin with Consumers Union in a recent letter to AT&T. The group, which has organized an online petition at EndRobocalls.com, sent similar letters to Verizon and Century Link.

AT&T says it's not as easy as it sounds. Robocallers can easily "spoof" their identity and location by pretending to be from a legitimate source or by altering the caller ID. So blocking robocalls is "a bit like a game of Whac-A-Mole: just as numbers are identified for blocking, the robocaller spoofs another number," the company said in an FCC filing.

US job openings surge, a sign that job gains may rebound

WASHINGTON (AP)—It turns out we may be able to breathe a little easier about the slowdown in hiring last month.

A Labor Department report Tuesday showed that job openings surged 3.4 percent to 5.1 million in February—a 14-year high. That's a clear sign that companies are willing to boost their staffs.

The figure follows a disappointing jobs report on Friday, which showed that employers added only 126,000 jobs in March. That was the weakest number in 15 months, and followed 12 straight months of job gains above 200,000.

The pickup in open jobs, however, suggests that hiring could rebound in the coming months. Businesses have been slow to fill openings for much of the recovery and may start

filling more of their open jobs in April.

The sharp rise in available jobs "is a reassuring sign that the fundamentals of the labor market have continued to improve," said Jeremy Schwartz, an analyst at Credit Suisse.

Other recent data point to better hiring and growth in the second quarter. The number of people seeking unemployment benefits fell last week. And a survey of service firms, including retailers, banks and construction companies, found that they expanded at a healthy pace last month.

There were some negative signs in Tuesday's report. Total hiring slipped 1.6 percent in February to 4.9 million, the second straight decline.

But layoffs fell even more. The declines in hiring and lay-

offs suggest that employers were cautious in the face of a faltering economy but weren't spooked enough to cut jobs.

Recent data has pointed to sputtering growth in the first three months of this year. Consumers have been reluctant to ramp up spending, instead saving much of the windfall from cheaper gas prices. Fewer exports have lowered factory output. Home construction has also been weak.

Many economists blamed the tepid job gain on temporary factors, such as harsh winter weather, a labor dispute at West Coast ports that disrupted shipping, and a stronger dollar that has hurt U.S. export sales. Most now expect the economy expanded at only a 1 percent annual rate in the first three months of this year, down from 2.2 percent in the final three months of last year.

Nation

Family died of gas poisoning after utility cut power to home

PRINCESS ANNE, Md. (AP)—A divorced father and the seven children he was trying to raise on a kitchen worker's salary were poisoned in their sleep by carbon monoxide only days after the power company discovered a stolen meter and cut off electricity to their rental home, police said Tuesday.

Delmarva Power said it did not cut off the family's electricity because they were behind on their bills, but for safety reasons after discovering the illegal connection March 25.

Rodney Todd, 36, then bought a gas-powered generator and installed it in his kitchen to keep his two sons and five daughters warm. Friends and relatives last saw them alive March 28.

"The children were all in beds, and it appears as though they were sleeping," Princess Anne police Chief Scott Keller said. "Probably it was bedtime and they decided they needed some light and probably some heat, because toward the end of March even though it was



AP
Sheets are held as a body is removed from a residence where police say seven children and one adult have been found dead Monday, April 6, 2015, in Princess Anne, Md.

spring we were having some pretty chilly nights."

Police found their bodies Monday inside the one-story wood-frame home on Maryland's Eastern Shore after school workers, friends and Todd's co-workers knocked on the door with no answer.

"I'm just numb. Like it's a nightmare but it's not," the children's mother, Tyisha Luneice Chambers, told The Associated Press on Tuesday. "If I had known he was without electricity, I would have helped."

Why Todd had a generator running indoors wasn't clear. The chief ruled out foul play and speculated that had it been outside, the noise would have bothered neighbors.

Matt Likovich, a spokesman for Delmarva Power, said Tuesday that the utility was not contacted to have power restored in the home after the illegal meter was removed. "We had no record of who was living there," Likovich said. "There was no way to determine what their situation was."

Rand Paul begins presidential run with litany of woes to fix

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)—Sen. Rand Paul launched his 2016 presidential campaign Tuesday with a combative challenge both to Washington and his fellow Republicans, cataloguing a lengthy list of what ails America and pledging to "take our country back."

Paul's fiery message, delivered in his home state of Kentucky before he flew to four early-nominating states, was designed to broaden his appeal outside of the typical GOP coalition as well as motivate supporters of his father's two unsuccessful bids for the Republican presidential nomination.

In a 26-minute speech that

eviscerated "the Washington machine," he spared neither Republican nor Democrat as he attempted to tap into Americans' deep frustrations with their government.

"I worry that the opportunity and hope are slipping away for our sons and daughters," the tea party favorite said. "As I watch our once-great economy collapse under mounting spending and debt, I think, 'What kind of America will our grandchildren see?'"

He added: "It seems to me that both parties and the entire



political system are to blame."

By criticizing fellow Republicans, Paul showed he was ready to run a tough-talking campaign equally at ease criticizing both major parties.

"Big government and debt doubled under a Republican administration," Paul said in a swipe at former President George W. Bush, whose brother, Jeb, is expected to be a Paul rival for the GOP nomination.

He immediately followed up: "And it's now tripling under Barack Obama's watch."

ACROSS THE NATION

White SC officer charged with murder in black man's shooting

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP)—A white South Carolina police officer was charged with murder Tuesday, hours after law enforcement officials viewed a dramatic video that appears to show him shooting a fleeing black man several times in the back. North Charleston Mayor Keith Summey announced the charges at a hastily called news conference in which he said City Patrolman Michael Thomas Slager made "a bad decision." The shooting, which began as a traffic stop over a faulty brake light, occurred as Americans grapple with issues of

trust between law enforcement and minority communities after a series of deaths of unarmed black men at the hands of police. They include the deaths of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, and Eric Garner on Staten Island, New York. Both sparked protests nationwide. In the Charleston case, authorities said the victim, 50-year-old Walter Lamer Scott, was shot after the officer already hit him with a stun gun.

California sets water use targets amid record low savings

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—California cities face mandatory targets to slash water use as much as 35 percent

while regulators warn voluntary conservation hasn't been enough in the face of a devastating drought. Underlining their point was data released Tuesday showing a new low in saving water. Residents did less to curtail water use in February than any other month since officials started tracking conservation. Along the south coast, home to more than a third of Californians from San Diego to Los Angeles, residents actually showed an increase in water consumption despite longstanding calls for cutbacks. "These are sobering statistics and disheartening statistics," said Felicia Marcus, chairwoman of the State Water Resources Control Board.

Asia

Poll: Americans divided over Japan's military role in Asia

TOKYO (AP)—Seventy years after the U.S. defeated Japan in World War II, Americans are divided over Japan playing a more active military role in Asia—and most Japanese are opposed.

The results of a Pew Research Center poll released Tuesday in Washington, D.C., come as the two countries are finalizing a revision of their mutual defense guidelines that is expected to expand the scope of Japan's military activities in the region.

The telephone survey of 1,000 Americans and 1,000 Japanese also found a high degree of trust between the two nations, a shift from the animosity that prevailed in the 1980s and 1990s when the two countries were embroiled in trade disputes.

Some of the findings:

MILITARY DIVISIONS

The U.S. government, stretched

by global crises and tighter budgets, would welcome greater burden sharing by Japan in regional defense. Americans are less sure: 47 percent back a more active Japanese military in the Asia-Pacific, while 43 percent say, given its history, Japan should limit its role.

Likewise in Japan, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is pushing his country to do more, but 68 percent of Japanese respondents favor limiting the military's role, and only 23 percent support expanding it.

A-BOMB DIVIDE

56: Percent of Americans who say the 1945 atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were justified.

34: Percent who say they were not.

14: Percent of Japanese who say the atomic bombings were justified.

79: Percent who say they were not.

TRADING PLACES

A large majority of Americans viewed Japan as an unfair trader in the 1980s and 1990s. Today, only 24 percent describe Japan's trade policy as unfair in the Pew poll, while 55 percent call it fair. China isn't viewed as badly as Japan was previously, but 48 percent say China is unfair, while 37 percent say it's fair.

WHO IS ABE?

73: Percent of Americans who say they have never heard of Abe.

69: Percent who have never heard of best-selling Japanese novelist Haruki Murakami.

32: Percent who have never heard of Ichiro Suzuki, Japanese baseball star playing in the U.S. major leagues.

For Afghan women, violence remains entrenched despite gains

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—For the past year, the 17-year-old has lived in a shelter in Afghanistan's capital, hoping for a new life away from the sexual abuse that turned her family inside out.

Her father sexually abused her from when she was nine years old and let his friends to do the same. She didn't tell anyone, she said, because she didn't understand what was happening to her. But any pretense of family normality imploded when medical examinations revealed that her brother was infertile and her father was also the father of her brother's sons.

She then fled from her home

village, in northern Afghanistan, and made her way to Kabul. There, she was taken in by a taxi driver and his family. But after a few days he and his friends—all heroin addicts—locked her up with three other girls and used them as sex slaves, she said.

"I came across to the same thing I was running from. Every day a new man used to come to me," the teen told The Associated Press. The AP does not identify victims of sexual abuse. The teen said she was speaking out in hopes it would prevent abuse of others.

The girl's story may be on the extremes of brutality, but rights workers say violence and abuse

against women remains one of Afghanistan's most deeply entrenched problems, even as the government tries to build greater rights for women. Even measuring the extent of abuse is difficult.

In 2014, for example, the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission received 2,026 reports of violence against women, up from previous years. But Hussain Mohsen, of the group's investigation department, said variations from year to year are usually just technical blips and that the problem in general is more pervasive. "The violence is so high and was high in the past as well," Mohsen told AP.

forts to ease the formerly icy relations with China by avoiding politics to instead discuss trade, investment and transportation links. But Ma's engagement with China hit its strongest wave of resistance at home last year when tens of thousands of protesters occupied parliament and surrounding streets in Taipei to demand more oversight of relations with Beijing or a cancellation of any future agreements.

Australia creates new task force to fight ice scourge

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—The Australian government on Wednesday announced a task force to create a new national response to the rapidly growing problem of addiction to ice, also known as crystal meth, across the country. Law enforcement agencies report that the rate of use of the potent and highly addictive form of methamphetamine had almost doubled in Australia in the past year, with international drug rings attracted by the relatively high prices that Australians are willing to pay. Prime Minister Tony Abbott announced that former Victoria state chief police commissioner Ken Lay would head the task force which will report to the government by mid-year on a new coordinated approach to the drug scourge that will involve law enforcement, health and education agencies.

ASIAN BRIEFS

US defense chief seeks deeper ties in first Asia visit

TOKYO (AP)—U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter says a nearly completed revision of the U.S.-Japan Defense Guidelines will transform the bilateral alliance and help the countries respond to challenges in the Asia-Pacific region and around the globe. Carter is in Tokyo on Wednesday to meet with Japanese officials on his first trip to Asia since becoming defense secretary in February. He visits South Korea later this week. Japan and the United States are expected to finish the revision of their defense guidelines later this month. Japanese Defense Minister Gen Nakatani says he and Carter also reiterated their support for a controversial plan to relocate a U.S. Marines base to another part of Okinawa in southern Japan.

Taiwan's president says China relations unshaken by protests

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Taiwan's president says relations with political and military rival China are moving forward despite widespread public opposition that crested with a student occupation of parliament last year. President Ma Ying-jeou, who seldom speaks in public, made the comments at a news conference Wednesday in Taipei. When Ma took office in 2008, his government accelerated ef-

World

560 dead amid fears of humanitarian collapse in Yemen

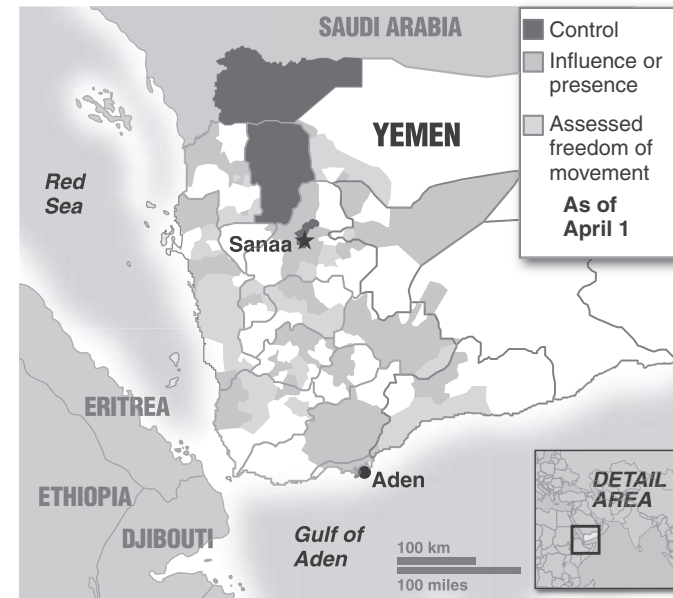
Houthi areas of influence

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—As tons of desperately needed medical supplies await clearance to be flown into Yemen, aid workers warned Tuesday of an unfolding humanitarian crisis, saying at least 560 people, including dozens of children, have been killed, mostly in a Saudi-led air campaign and battles between Shiite rebels and forces loyal to the embattled president.

More than 1,700 people have been wounded and another 100,000 have fled their homes as fighting intensified over the past three weeks, the World Health Organization said.

The Red Cross shipment would be the first to reach Yemen since the start of the Saudi-imposed air blockade. Sitara Jabeen, a Geneva-based spokeswoman for the International Committee of the Red Cross, said a cargo plane with 17 tons of medical supplies was in the Jordanian capital, Amman, awaiting the go-ahead from coalition forces to land in Sanaa, hopefully on Wednesday. Another 35 tons of supplies were also ready for shipment, she said.

"If these medical supplies do



Source: American Enterprise Institute, Critical Threats
Graphic: Staff, Tribune News Service

not reach Yemen, then unfortunately we are afraid many more people will die," Jabeen said.

She said a surgical team was also awaiting clearance to dock in the embattled Yemeni port of Aden, where heavy fighting Monday left streets littered with bodies.

The fighting pits allies of Yemen's president, Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi, against Iranian-backed Shiite rebels, known

as Houthis, and allied military units loyal to ousted President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

The Saudi-led air campaign, which supports Hadi, now in its 13th day, so far has failed to stop the Houthis' advance on Aden, Yemen's second-largest city, which was declared the provisional capital by Hadi before he fled the country for Saudi Arabia as the rebels closed in two weeks ago.

Iraqi teams start exhuming mass grave of soldiers in Tikrit

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraqi forensic teams in the newly recaptured city of Tikrit have started exhuming bodies from mass graves believed to contain some of the hundreds of soldiers killed by Islamic State militants last year, a government spokesman said Tuesday.

Kamil Amin from Iraq's Human Rights Ministry said the work started on Monday on eight locations inside Tikrit's complex of presidential palaces, where much of the killing is believed to have taken place.

Islamic State militants overran Saddam Hussein's hometown last June, capturing around 1,700 soldiers as they were trying to flee Camp

Speicher, an air base previously used by U.S. troops on the outskirts of Tikrit. The fall of Tikrit was part of the Islamic State onslaught that stunned Iraqi security forces and the military, which melted away as the militants advanced.

Later, the Islamic State group posted graphic images online that appeared to show its gunmen massacring scores of the soldiers after loading the captives onto flatbed trucks and then forcing them to lay face-down in a shallow ditch, their arms tied behind their backs.

Other videos showed masked gunmen bringing the soldiers to a bloodstained concrete river waterfront inside the presidential palaces complex in Tikrit, shooting them in the head and throwing them into the Tigris River.

After weeks of bitter clashes, Iraqi forces and allied Shiite militias, succeeded in retaking Tikrit from the Islamic State. Their victory was helped by U.S.-led coalition airstrikes, which were not initially part of the operation.

Amin told The Associated Press that at least 12 bodies were exhumed on Monday. Lab tests will be carried out to match them with DNA samples that have already been taken from families of around 85 percent of the victims.

Analysis: Iran nuke deal tough—but could be circumvented

VIENNA (AP)—In selling the Iran nuclear deal to Congress and other skeptics, President Barack Obama said it is built on "unprecedented verification," telling his radio audience over the weekend: "If Iran cheats, the world will know it."

Only time will tell if Obama is right. While Iran could try to push back or cover up, it certainly has little incentive for deceit.

Its negotiators returned home to jubilant crowds hailing the prospect of an end to the crippling economic sanctions that forced Iran to the negotiating table in the first place. On Tuesday, even the chief of Iran's powerful Revolutionary Guard

joined in praising their efforts.

Tehran thus is unlikely to risk the prospect of having the sanctions re-imposed—the penalty for cheating. More likely, Iran will push for every loophole any agreement provides but honor it, and wait out the strict restrictions any deal will impose.

Still, hoping that Iran will toe the line isn't enough. Distrust about its intentions will persist long after the fleeting good vibes generated around the negotiating table by last week's preliminary deal. It was designed to at least temporarily cap such potential Iranian bomb-making nuclear activities.

That has left the United States and its negotiating partners seeking tight controls against potential Iranian deceit. The commitments Tehran has signed on to certainly go further than ever before to ensure that if it does try to clandestinely circumvent restrictions on its nuclear program, it will not get away with it.

Iran can afford to bide its time—it resisted efforts to demolish its nuclear infrastructure, leaving it intact. That allows it to quickly expand to dimensions dwarfing its present capacities once constraints are lifted, starting 10 years after any accord takes hold.

Environment

Oceans might take 1,000 years to recover from climate change

By GEOFFREY MOHAN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Naturally occurring climate change lowered oxygen levels in the deep ocean, decimating a broad spectrum of seafloor life that took some 1,000 years to recover, according to a study that offers a potential window into the effects of modern warming.

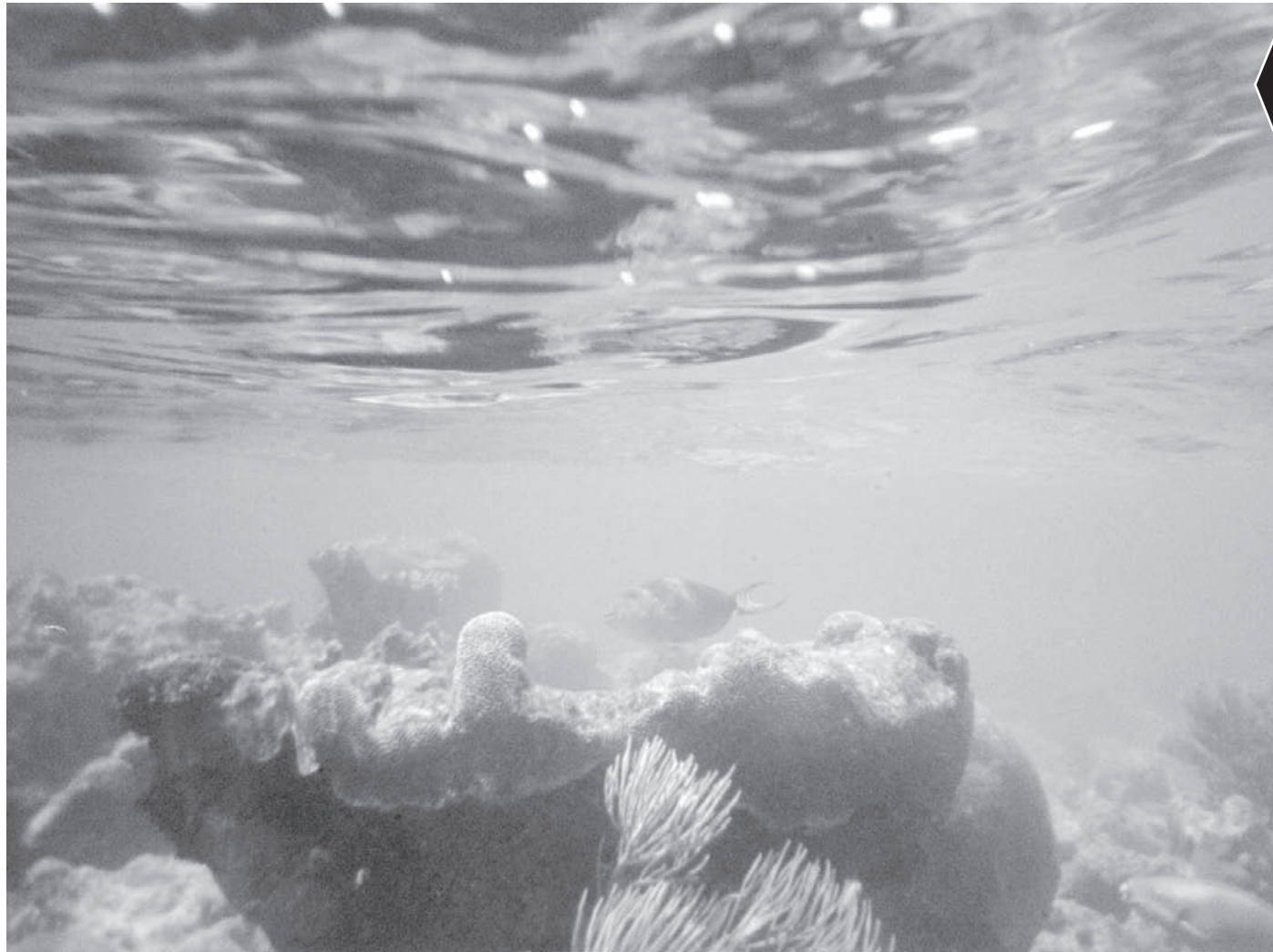
Earth's recovery from the last glacial period, in fact, was slower and more brutal than previously thought, according to the study, published online Monday in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

Researchers deciphered that plotline from a 30-foot core of sea sediments drilled from the Santa Barbara Basin off the coast of California containing more than 5,000 fossils spanning nearly 13,000 years.

"The recovery does not happen on a century scale; it's a commitment to a millennial-scale recovery," said Sarah Moffitt, a marine ecologist at the University of California, Davis' Bodega Marine Laboratory and lead author of the study. "If we see dramatic oxygen loss in the deep sea in my lifetime, we will not see a recovery of that for many hundreds of years, if not thousands or more."

Studies already have chronicled declines in dissolved oxygen in some areas of Earth's oceans. Such hypoxic conditions can expand when ocean temperatures rise and cycles that carry oxygen to deeper areas are interrupted.

As North American glaciers retreated during a warming period 14,700 years ago, an oxygen-sensitive community of seafloor



AP
This April 6, 2005 file photo shows a coral reef and fish on a snorkeling trail off Buck Island near St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands.

invertebrates that included sea stars, urchins, clams and snails nearly vanished from the fossil record within about 130 years, the researchers found.

"We found incredible sensitivity across all of these taxonomic groups, across organisms that you would recognize, that you could hold in your hand, organisms that build and create ecosystems that are really fundamental to the way ecosystems function," Moffitt said. "They were just dramatically wiped out by the abrupt

loss of oxygen."

That highly diverse community soon was replaced with a relatively narrow suite of bizarre and extreme organisms similar to those found near deep-ocean vents and methane seeps in modern oceans, Moffitt said.

Evidence of that transition was confined to such a narrow band of sediments that the turnover could have been "nearly instantaneous," the study concluded.

Then, beginning around

13,500 years ago, the seafloor community began a slow recovery with the rise of grazers that fed on bacterial mats. Recovery eventually was driven by a fluctuation back toward glaciation during the Younger Dryas period, a cooling sometimes called the Big Freeze.

"The biological community takes 1,000 years to truly recover to the same ecological level of functioning," Moffitt said. "And the community progresses through really interesting and bizarre states before it recovers the kind of biodiversity that was seen prior to the warming."

That relatively brief freeze also ended abruptly around 11,700 years ago, virtually wiping out all the seafloor metazoans, the study found. They were gone within 170 years and did not appear again for more than 4,000 years, according to the study.

The climate changes chronicled in the study arose from natural cycles involving Earth's orbit of the sun, and the oxygen declines that ensued were more extreme than those that have occurred in modern times, the study noted.

Still, the abrupt fluctuations offer a glimpse at the duration of the effects of climate change driven by human activity pumping more planet-warming gases into Earth's atmosphere, Moffitt said.

"What this shows us is that there are major biomes on this planet that are on the table, that are on the chopping block for a future of abrupt climate warming and unchecked greenhouse gas emissions," Moffitt said. "We as a society and civilization have to come to terms with the things that we are going to sacrifice if we do not reduce our greenhouse gas footprint."

Americans less likely to care a 'great deal' about environmental threats

By ARIT JOHN
BLOOMBERG NEWS

Americans' concerns over environmental issues including air and water pollution, plant and animal extinction and rain-forest loss has crept downward since last year, according to a new poll.

Gallup measured how many Americans care "a great deal" about those issues and found a drop of 5 to 8 percentage points, the polling organization said Wednesday. That came after an uptick from 2013 to 2014.

"Last year's increased worry proved temporary, rather than the start of a trend toward renewed concern about environmental problems," Gallup's Jeffrey M. Jones wrote.

Gallup surveyed 1,025 adults over the phone from March 5-8, and has a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percentage points. Concern over "global warming

or climate change" dropped 2 percentage points over the past year to 32 percent, according to the poll.

One trend that hasn't changed is declining concern about the environment in the GOP. Between 2000 and 2015, the number of Republicans who said they worried a great deal about drinking water and air pollution dropped 21 percentage points and 28 percentage points, respectively. Concern about climate change among Republicans dropped 16 percentage points during that time. It rose 4 percentage points among Democrats.

The poll results come as the environmental movement shifts its focus from more immediate concerns like water pollution to long-term risks like climate change. But despite increased media cover-

age over the last several years, concern for climate change remains nearly identical to the poll's March 2013 and 2014 results—32 percent of Americans say they care a great deal about it, and another 23 percent say they care a fair amount.

At the same time, it's worth paying attention to what questions a poll is asking. A January 2015 Pew Research poll asked what issues should be a top priority for President Barack Obama in 2015. Thirty-eight percent of Americans said global warming, a rise of 9 percentage points from the previous year. By that measure, concern over climate change is still on the rise.

Pew interviewed 1,504 people over the phone from Jan. 7-11, 2015. The survey has a margin of error of plus or minus 2.9 percentage points.

Deepwater Horizon oil spill caused lasting damage, report says

By WILLIAM E. GIBSON
SUN SENTINEL

WASHINGTON—Dolphins are dying in unusually high numbers. Sea turtle nests are declining.

Tuna are developing abnormally. And pelicans and gulls are suffering from the lasting effects of a massive oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico five years ago, the National Wildlife Federation warned in a report released Monday.

The impact is concentrated in the northern Gulf, but scientists say the long-term damage affects spawning waters for many fish that migrate to South Florida and along the East Coast.

"Wildlife from sperm whales to marsh ants are still feeling the effects of the disaster," said Ryan Fikes, the environmental group's Gulf restoration scientist.

The report rounds up research findings on the Deepwater Horizon disaster that spewed millions of gallons of oil into the Gulf in April 2010. The impact, and the research, is ongoing.

A research team spearheaded by scientists at Nova

Southeastern University plans to launch another mission in late April or May to study fish, shrimp, squids and microbes in the deep waters of the Gulf. The team got an \$8.5 million grant, which is drawn from \$500 million provided by BP, the giant oil company that had leased the rig when it exploded, killing 11 workers.

"It's important we keep looking. Sometimes it takes a long time for these long-term effects on fish populations to show themselves," said Tracey Sutton, director of the research team.

NSU's three-year study will help determine the impact of submerged oil and of chemical dispersants used to break up the giant slick. The results have implications for the Atlantic side of Florida because powerful currents bring fish and pollutants through the Florida Straits and north along the coast.

"We know that oil is still below the surface, on the beaches and in the sand," said Jose Victor Lopez, one of the NSU scientists. "We know that if the sea currents are not in our

favor, some of the particles of dispersants could make it over (to the East Coast)."

The National Wildlife Federation, an advocacy group, is pushing for more research on the spill's lasting effects in the Gulf and beyond. Its report says that:

■ Since the spill, about 1,000 bottlenose dolphins have been found dead in an area stretching from the Florida Panhandle to Texas. Dolphins on the Louisiana coast were found dead at four times the historic rates.

■ The number of endangered sea turtle nests, which had been increasing rapidly, has declined on average since the spill.

■ Exposure to oil has caused abnormal development in many species of fish, including mahi mahi, Gulf killifish and bluefin and yellowfin tuna.

■ 12 percent of the brown pelicans and 32 percent of the laughing gulls in the northern Gulf may have died as a result of the oil spill.

■ 2010 and 2011 had the lowest numbers of juvenile red snapper seen in an eastern Gulf fishery since 1994.

In Celebration of Her New Life

†Justa Quitano Camacho

Lovingly known as “Nan Tuta”

July 19, 1929 – April 4, 2015

In her New Life, she now joins her:

Husband: †Vidal Acosta Camacho
Father: †Manuel Concepcion Quitano
Mother: †Rita Roberto Quitano
Father-in-Law: †Mariano Palacios Camacho
Mother-in-Law: †Valeriana Acosta Camacho

Brothers, Sisters, In-Law:

†Jose R. / †Maria T. Quitano
 †Angela Q. / †Jose Palacios
 †Pilar R. Quitano
 †Francisco R. Quitano
 †Pedro T. Sablan

†Antonio A. / †Lolita S. Camacho
 †Jose A. Camacho
 †Santiago A. / †Carmen DL Cruz Camacho
 †Juan A. / †Rosa Cruz Camacho
 †Carmen C. Sasamoto

*Her smile and kind heart will
 forever be cherished by her:*

Children and families:

Rita Q. Camacho
 Elizabeth C. and Ernest M. Sablan (children and grandchildren)
 Vicente Q. and Erica V. Camacho (children and grandchild)
 George Q. Camacho and Lydia S. Sablan (children grandchildren and great grandchild)
 Juan Q. and Lisa C. Camacho (children)
 Ellen Q. Camacho
 Manuel Q. Camacho (children and grandchild)
 Emmerita Q. Camacho

Reared Children and their families:

Dr. Manuel Q. and Magdalena B. Sablan (children and grandchildren)
 Margarita S. McQuay (children and grandchildren)
 Ronald C. and Rose Roberto (children and grandchildren)

Sister and In-law

Elena Q. Sablan, Victoria C. Quitano and Juana M. Camacho

She will also be dearly missed by her many cousins, nieces, nephews, godchildren, relatives, and friends.

Mass of Intention for the repose of her soul is being celebrated daily at Kristo Rai Church at 6:00am. Holy Rosary is prayed at 7pm at Kristo Rai Church each night.



Funeral services will be held on Monday, April 13, 2015. Her remains will be escorted from Nuestra Señora dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 8:00am to Mount Carmel Cathedral. Responso service will be held at 8:30am, immediately followed by Holy Rosary. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00am, followed by Interment services at Mount Carmel Cemetery.

Please join us in prayers. Thank you and Si Yu'us Ma'ase.

**The Children and Family of the late †Vidal Acosta Camacho
 and †Justa (Nan Tuta) Quitano Camacho**

Life & Style

17-year-old student accepted at all 8 Ivy League schools

ELMONT, New York (AP)—Nigerian-born Elmont High School senior Harold Ekeh had a plan—he would apply to 13 colleges, including all eight Ivy League schools, figuring it would help his chances of getting into at least one great school.

It worked. And then some. The teenager from Long Island was accepted at all 13 schools, and now faces his next big test: deciding where to go.

“I was stunned, I was really shocked,” the 17-year-old told The Associated Press during an interview Tuesday at his home

near the Belmont Park race-track, his four younger brothers running around.

He found out last week he had been accepted to Princeton University. That made him eight for eight in the Ivy League. He had already been accepted to Yale University, Brown University, Columbia University, Cornell University, Dartmouth College, Harvard University and University of Pennsylvania. His other acceptances came from Johns Hopkins University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, New York University,

Stony Brook University and Vanderbilt University.

“We are so proud of him,” said his mother, Roseline Ekeh. “Hard work, dedication, prayer brought him to where he is today.”

Born in Nigeria, Harold was 8 when his parents brought the family to the United States.

“It was kind of difficult adjusting to the new environment and the new culture,” he said. But he saw his parents working hard, “and I took their example and decided to apply myself.”

He referenced that effort in



Harold Ekeh, a senior at Elmont Memorial High School, speaks during an interview, Tuesday, April 7, 2015, in New York.

his college essay, writing: “Like a tree, uprooted and replanted, I could have withered in a new country surrounded by people and languages I did not understand. Yet, I witnessed my parents persevere despite the potential to succumb. I faced my challenges with newfound zeal; I risked humiliation, spending my recesses talking to unfamiliar faces, ignoring their sarcastic remarks.”

Harold “is tremendously focused in everything he does,” said John Capozzi, the school’s principal. “He’s a great role

model. All the students and faculty are so proud of him.”

Harold is the second Long Island student in as many years to get into all eight Ivies. Last year, William Floyd High School’s Kwasi Enin chose to go to Yale.

Harold, who has a 100.51 grade-point average and wants to be a neurosurgeon, said he was leaning toward Yale, and had heard from Enin, offering congratulations. Like Enin, he’s likely to announce his college choice at a press conference later this month. The deadline to decide is May 1.

Mischa Barton sues mother over lost earnings



In this June 1, 2014 file photo, actress Mischa Barton appears at The Pool After Dark at Harrah’s Resort in Atlantic City, N.J.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Mischa Barton has sued her mother, alleging she stole money that the former star of the television series “The O.C.” earned throughout her career and made endorsement deals that damaged the actress’s reputation.

The lawsuit filed Tuesday in Los Angeles also accuses Nuala Barton of kicking her daughter out of a multimillion-dollar Beverly Hills home that was purchased with money earned while Mischa Barton was a child actress.

Mischa Barton was 17 when she began working on “The O.C.” and already had appeared in the films “Notting Hill” and “The Sixth Sense.”

Nuala Barton served as her

daughter’s manager for much of her career. The lawsuit accuses Nuala Barton of bullying her daughter, and states she has been fired from her management role.

“While Barton was busy perfecting her craft and turning her acting dreams into reality, her mother, defendant Nuala Barton, was secretly scheming to exploit Barton’s burgeoning career for her benefit,” the lawsuit states.

A message left at a phone number listed for Nuala Barton was not immediately returned.

The lawsuit also claims the mother is withholding royalties and lied about the amount the actress was paid for a 2013 film so she could pocket the

difference, in addition to her 10 percent management fee. The suit does not state how much the actress believes has been stolen, but claims her mother has refused to provide accounting details.

Mischa Barton said after her character was killed off “The O.C.” in its third season, she wanted to focus on movie roles. She has appeared in several small films and a short-lived CW series but has garnered no high-profile roles.

She has been a fixture in the fashion world, appearing at shows for top designers in New York and Paris, and has endorsed beauty products and collaborated on her own line of fashion accessories.

The lawsuit contends some of the endorsements were entered without the actress’s permission, and she wasn’t properly paid for the use of her name and likeness in connection with a handbag line and a London boutique.

“Nuala did not compensate Barton for the use of her name, image and likeness, nor did she share in any of the profits from these ventures with Barton,” Barton’s attorney Alex Weingarten wrote in the lawsuit. “This is all despite the

fact that the businesses were built solely on Barton’s fame and popularity.”

Barton’s mother bought a \$7.8 million home in Beverly Hills in 2006 using her daughter’s earnings and gave herself an ownership interest in the property and took out loans against it, the lawsuit states. Mischa Barton is no longer allowed at the home, according to the lawsuit.

The actress encountered a rough period after her role ended on “The O.C.”

She was arrested in late 2007 on suspicion of drunken driving and later pleaded no contest to driving under the influence and driving without a valid license. She was sentenced to three years of probation and alcohol treatment and completed the case without incident.

Mischa Barton was removed from her home by Los Angeles police in 2009 and was hospitalized for two weeks, but officers and her publicist declined to say why.

S I D E B A R

Mischa Barton is latest actor to sue parent over earnings

LOS ANGELES (AP)—It’s a story almost as old as Hollywood—stars taking their parents to court over money they earned as child actors that was pilfered or mismanaged.

A lawsuit Mischa Barton filed against her mother Tuesday is the latest example of a child star sparring with their parent-turned-manager. The actress who rose to fame on Fox’s teen drama “The O.C.” claims her mother stole money from her and kicked her out of a \$7.8 million home bought with her acting proceeds.

The lawsuit links Barton to previous generations of young performers who claimed their parents squandered the fruits of their early careers.

GARY COLEMAN

The “Diff’rent Strokes” star fought with his parents and an ex-manager for four years over money he made on the popular comedy series.

In 1993, a judge ruled Coleman should be awarded nearly \$1.3 million from the trio after the actor claimed they skimmed his earnings from the show, which ran from 1978 to 1986.

Coleman and his parents later settled dueling court cases, which included an attempt to place the actor under a guardianship to protect his health and finances. Coleman suffered from a kidney ailment

that stunted his growth.

MACAULAY CULKIN

Culkin was a teenager when he was caught in the middle of a nasty custody dispute between his mother and his father, who was serving as the “Home Alone” star’s manager.

At one point during the court battle, a judge approved dipping into Culkin’s earnings from his childhood acting roles to buy his mother and siblings a New York apartment to prevent them from becoming homeless.

Culkin’s lawyer filed a motion to remove both parents as legal guardians when the actor was 15. His mother eventually won custody of him and his siblings after his father dropped his opposition to the proceedings.

ARIEL WINTER

The teenage “Modern Family” actress’s mother was stripped of custody and any role in her daughter’s career after 2012 allegations of physical and emotional abuse.

Winter’s mother denied she slapped or called her daughter names, but a judge allowed the actress to live with her adult sister, who remains the 17-year-old’s guardian.

Child protective services investigators found evidence of emotional abuse, but claims of physical abuse were inconclusive, a judge said in late 2012.

The actress’s mom eventually agreed to a settlement that cut her out of her daughter’s career.

LEANN RIMES

At age 17, the country singer sued her father and a former co-manager in Texas, claiming they took more than \$7 million she had recently earned.

The suit claimed the pair took as much as 30 percent of the singer’s earnings and siphoned off millions of dollars in royalties. Her father countersued, claiming he was the one who was owed money.

The cases were settled, and Rimes later reconciled with her father.

JACKIE COOGAN

Coogan rose to fame after appearing in Charlie Chaplin’s 1921 film “The Kid” and earned approximately \$4 million before reaching adulthood.

He sought his earnings from his mother and stepfather in the 1930s. They refused, and Coogan sued. But he was rebuffed for most of the money because California law didn’t give minors any rights to their earnings.

That changed in 1939 when lawmakers passed what is known as the Coogan Law. It since has been revised to require that parents set aside at least 15 percent of their children’s acting earnings in a blocked account.

NCAA title game draws most TV viewers in 18 years

NEW YORK (AP)—Even without an undefeated team, the NCAA title game drew its largest TV audience in 18 years.

Duke's 68-63 comeback win over Wisconsin on Monday night on CBS averaged 28.3 million viewers, the most since 1997, when Arizona upset defending champion Ken-

tucky in overtime, CBS and Turner Sports said Tuesday. That's up 33 percent from the 21.3 million for Connecticut's victory over Kentucky last year.

Wisconsin had defeated the previously unbeaten Wildcats in the semifinals, dashing what could have been a record audience for a potential Kentucky-

Duke final. The interest for the matchup between the Badgers and Blue Devils still proved high, riding the momentum of a tournament that drew strong ratings all the way through.

The games across CBS, TBS, TNT and truTV averaged 11.3 million viewers, the most since 1993 and up 8 percent from a year ago.



AP
Duke head coach Mike Krzyzewski, right, celebrates with Justise Winslow after their 68-63 victory over Wisconsin in the NCAA Final Four college basketball tournament championship game Monday, April 6, 2015, in Indianapolis.

Kanye West, photographer, settle lawsuit over airport attack

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kanye West and a paparazzo he attacked have settled a lawsuit, at least in part with a handshake and an apology.

West was sued by Daniel Ramos after the 2013 attack outside a terminal at Los Angeles International Airport and the case was scheduled to go to trial next week. Ramos' attorney Gloria Allred wrote in a statement issued Tuesday

that the case had been settled and West had apologized to her client.

Allred sent a photo of West, smiling, as he shook Ramos' hand.

West's attorney Shawn Holley did not immediately return phone and email messages seeking comment.

Allred wrote that other details of the settlement will not be released, but said the apol-

ogy was a major component.

Ramos' lawsuit stated he was attacked by West after he asked the rapper why he wouldn't talk to photographers.

"Celebrities are not above the law, and they have no right to physically attack someone simply because they were asked a question," Allred wrote in a statement.

West, 37, pleaded no contest last year to misdemeanor battery and remains on probation.

Elton John, Stipe are calling for protection of transgender inmates

NEW YORK (AP)—Elton John and Michael Stipe are calling for the equal rights of transgender inmates following claims that a transgender woman was mistreated at a Georgia prison.



John

cials on behalf of Ashley Diamond, a transgender woman.

According to the lawsuit, prison officials did not provide sufficient treatment for 36-year-old Diamond's gender dysphoria. The lawsuit

also said Diamond was without hormone treatment for three years and her body suffered as a result, and that she had been sexually assaulted and ridiculed in prison.

"More often than not, assaults in part go unreported because the perpetrators are prison guards, wardens and staff," said Stipe and John, who founded the Elton John AIDS Foundation. "This is outrageous, and the message it sends is horrific: that violence against and discrimination of trans people is not only allowed, but sanctioned."

"Transgender women in male prisons have an equal right to protection from violence and abuse in prison, and yet they continue to face horrific injustices," according to a joint statement they released Tuesday.

Last week the Justice Department said prison officials must treat an inmate's gender identity condition just as they would treat any other medical or mental health condition following a February lawsuit from the Southern Poverty Law Center filed against Georgia Department of Corrections offi-

Darius Rucker wants rap collaboration; talks Hootie reunion

NEW YORK (AP)—Nelly and Florida Georgia Line. Ludacris and Jason Aldean. Darius Rucker and Jay Z?

The Hootie & the Blowfish frontman-turned-country singer says he's hoping to jump on a song with a rapper.

"I don't have much left on my bucket list. One of the things that I'm dying to do is to sing the hook on a big rap song," Rucker said in a recent interview. "No one's ever called me to do that."

Rucker said he wants to collaborate with hip-hop heavyweights like Jay Z, Eminem and Snoop Dogg.

"Somebody that's had a career; I get where they're coming from, they get where I'm coming from," said Rucker, 48. "Let's do something cool."

Rap and country duets have become popular over the years:

Florida Georgia Line and Nelly's "Cruise" remix was one of 2013's biggest hits. And other collaborations between the genres have matriculated, from Snoop Dogg and Willie Nelson to Jerrod Niekman and Pitbull to Jake Owen and T-Pain.

But before Rucker guests on a rap track, he's putting out new country music. "Southern Style," his fourth country effort, was released last week. He said he started work on the album a year ago and wrote over 50 songs for the project, though only 13 made the final track list.

Rucker also said the album is a departure from 2013's "True Believers," which featured his Grammy-winning cover of "Wagon Wheel."



Rucker

"True Believers" was such a serious record, and with this record, I really went into it with that attitude of, 'Let's have some fun. Let's write some big drinking songs and some loving life songs,'" Rucker said.

The first single, "Homegrown Honey," was co-written with Charles Kelley of Lady Antebellum.

"We were having a couple beers. We had a little party going over there between the three of us," said Rucker, who also wrote on the track with Nathan Chapman.

Rucker will launch a tour May 14 in Holmdel, New Jersey. Aside from his country material, he's also been playing shows with his Hootie bandmates, like they do every year.

But Rucker said they're cooking up new music.

"I pulled the guys together just last week and said, 'Let's start writing some songs.' If we decide to do it a year from now or if we decide to do it two years from now, I don't want to just have to decide and start writing a bunch of songs, I want it to be like when we wrote our first record," he said. "I want to take a couple years, write a bunch of songs and play them together in the basement and, you know, let's make a great record."

Hootie & the Blowfish, whose hits include "Let Her Cry" and "Only Wanna Be With You," released its last album in 2005.

"We're brothers and we play all the time, and we know we're going to do it, but we're not going to do it until it's right," he said.

Favorite uncle reveals himself with a shocking sext message

DEAR ABBY: I am heartbroken. I have an uncle "Tony" I'm close to, who is like my best friend. I was sending him pictures of a football game and he sent me back a very inappropriate picture of himself. He says it was a "mistake," that it was supposed to go to his wife, but the text message he sent with it showed different.

I don't want to be around him. I'm disgusted and hurt over this. I need advice. What do I do?

HEARTBROKEN IN GEORGIA

DEAR HEARTBROKEN: Share the photo and texts with your parents and ask what they think about them. Then ask if they think you should forward the picture and text message to your aunt with a note explaining Uncle Tony said they were meant for her, and you didn't want her to miss them.

Because he makes you uncomfortable, listen to your intuition and keep your distance because what he did was appalling.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a female working full-time in an office with all men. Yesterday afternoon, I ate a salad that contained several varieties of beans. I was standing outside my boss's office, laughing at a joke one of the salesmen was telling when the beans got the best of me and I passed gas.

I was mortified and wanted to sink through the floor! I patted the salesman on the arm and said, "I guess that's what I think of the joke," and walked back into my office. I didn't know what else to say or do. Today I can't look either of them in the face.

Since this seems to be something that happens to older people (I'm 69), and it's something we often don't have total control over—please tell me how to "recover." If this should happen again, what on earth does one say or do?

BEANS, THE MUSICAL FRUIT

DEAR B.T.M.F.: Stop beating yourself up over this. Expelling gas is normal. According to the National Institutes of Health, the average person passes gas about 14 times a day—although probably not as spectacularly as you did.

If it happens again, don't try to be funny. Just say, "Excuse me," and if the "toot" is a fragrant one, distance yourself. I'm positive that would be appreciated.

DEAR ABBY: We are planning to give a joint baby shower next month for two sisters-in-law who are expecting their babies three weeks apart. The joint shower is a necessity because some of the relatives will need to travel quite a distance to attend.

Most of the guests know both girls, but some will know only one of them. Is there a way we can word the invitation so these guests

DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



won't feel obligated to "gift" both babies? Any suggestions will be gratefully appreciated because we are stumped.

STUMPED IN OHIO

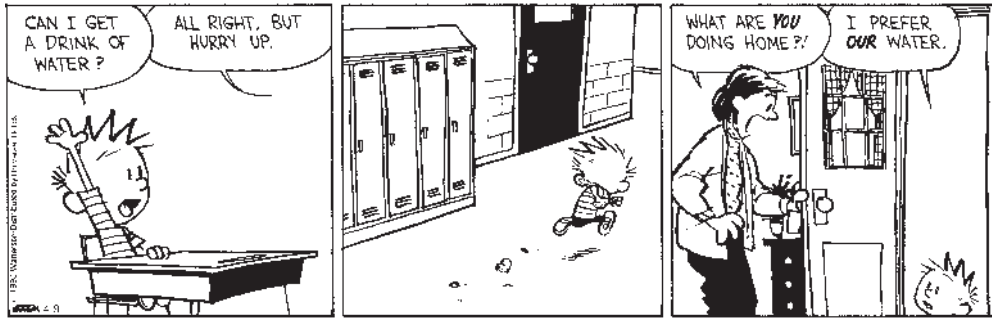
DEAR STUMPED: Put nothing on the invitations themselves mentioning gifts. However, it is acceptable to include an **INSERT** along with the invitation that states gifts for both babies are not expected. If the shower is going to be a large one, you could email the guests to relay the information. However, if it will be relatively small, pick up the phone and call.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



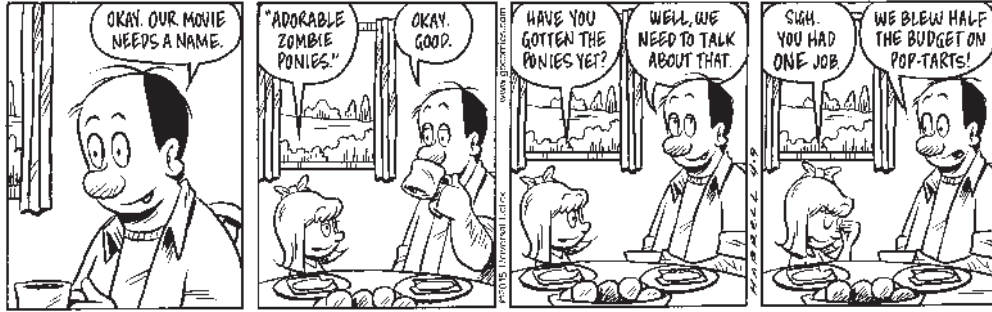
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



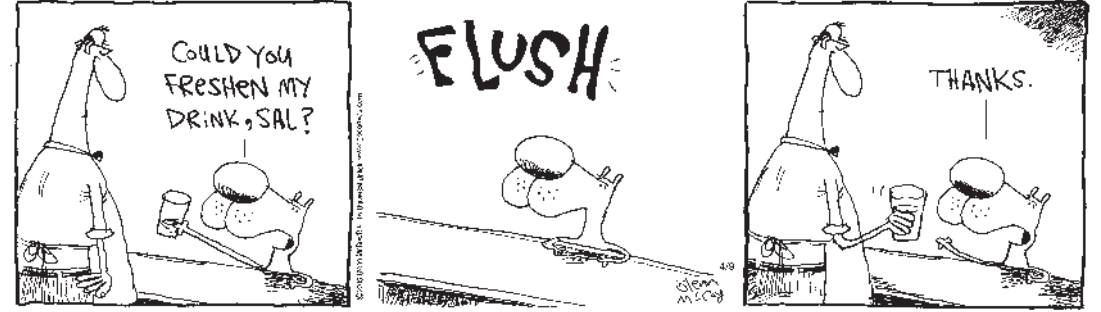
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

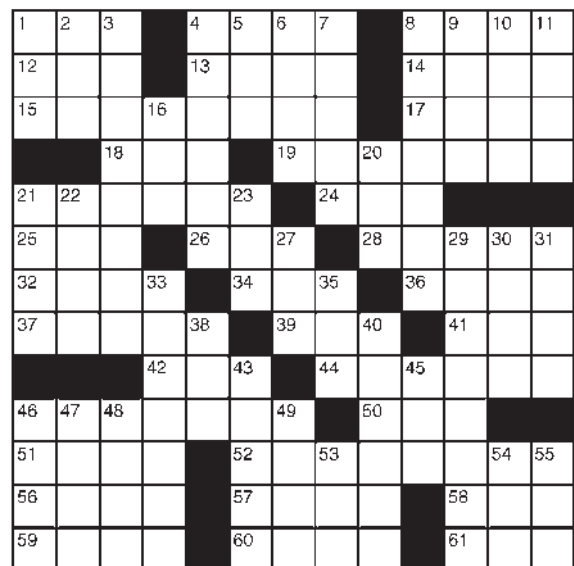
By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Auction
4 Presentation
8 Top-rated
12 Blackjack component
13 Emanation
14 Make a lasting impression?
15 JFK or LBJ, e.g.
17 Walkiki wingding
18 Rowing need
19 Granting permission
21 Cold season
24 Uncooked
25 "— was saying, ..."
- DOWN**
- 1 Awful
2 "Rocks"
3 Portray as
4 Holy
5 "Ben- —"
6 Exam format
7 "Just add —"
8 D.C. social world
9 Needle case
10 Read briefly
11 Hoodlum
16 Feedbag bit
20 Paving gunk
21 Hospital section
- 39 Joke**
41 Oft-tattooed word
42 Branch
44 Four-poster feature
46 Montgolfier transport
50 Torched
51 Margarine
52 Wreck
56 "— It Roman-tic?"
57 History chapters
58 Not paleo
59 Oodles is one
61 Wander about
- 22 "— Mommy Kissing Santa Claus"**
23 Obvious hairpiece
27 Satchel
29 Reducing in rank
30 On
31 Frost-covered
33 Ardent enthusiasts
35 — -12 Conference
38 Street address?
40 Over-shoe
43 Runway VIP
45 Zilch
46 Seethe
47 As well
48 Fast

Solution time: 24 mins.



Yesterday's answer 4-9



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Elle Fanning, 17; Kristen Stewart, 25; Leighton Meester, 29; Dennis Quaid, 61.

Happy Birthday: This is a year to take action. Sitting back will only make you anxious and will lead to regret. Step up and get started. You are responsible for your own happiness. Set your sights high and don't be afraid to make mistakes. What you learn from your experiences will contribute to a prosperous future. Express your thoughts and don't look back. Your numbers are 4, 11, 15, 27, 32, 39, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Get involved in the events, activities and networking functions that will allow you to use your skills and make new contacts. Don't be discouraged by negative or critical individuals when you should be putting your thoughts and energy into excelling. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You'll be tempted to overspend on items you don't need. Think before you commit to any deal that requires monthly contributions or payments. Unexpected bills are likely to leave you short of cash. Pace yourself in all aspects of your life. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Emotional deception will be present when dealing with business partnerships. Focus on what's in front of you instead of wallowing in past regrets or failures. There is much to gain if you approach life in a vibrant and engaging manner. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Make career choices that will lead to professional advancement and more money. Educa-

tional pursuits will lead to contacts that will play a part in helping you reach your goals. Love and romance will have an impact on your life. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Your energetic mood will attract attention and bring about an opportunity to get ahead. Attend conferences, seminars or networking events that will allow you to meet potential clients. Don't let an emotional situation ruin your chances to advance. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Interacting with people who have knowledge or expertise regarding something that interests you will lead to an unusual opportunity. Explore your options and consider a partnership that can help you develop new skills. Love is in the stars. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Your ability to see all sides of an issue will help bring order to a chaotic situation. Your talent will not go unnoticed, and greater personal and professional assistance will be offered. A positive change regarding an important relationship is apparent. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Draw from past experience in order to avoid being taken for granted. Keep life simple and refrain from unnecessary spending. Concentrate on home, developing innovative ideas and mastering what you enjoy doing the most. Make romance a priority. ★★

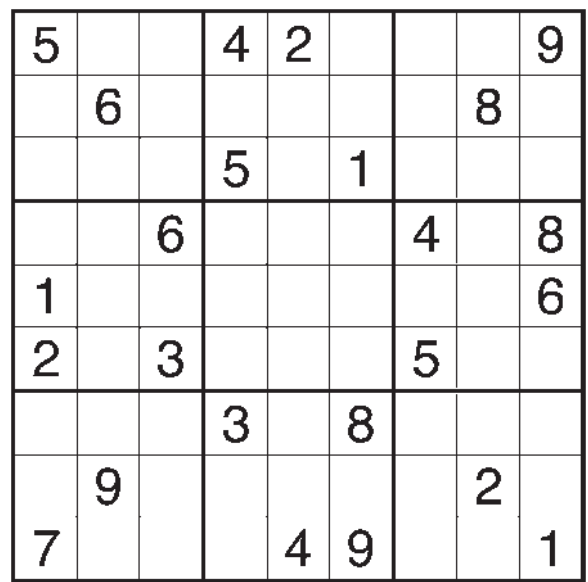
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Put honesty and integrity first. Don't evade issues that need to be addressed.

The purpose of clearing the air is to allow you the right to move forward without guilt. Do what needs to be done and don't look back. ★★

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

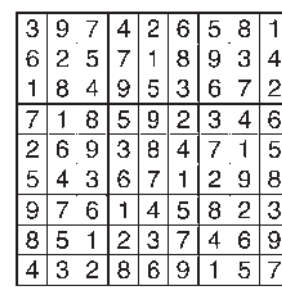


Difficulty Level ★★

4/09

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★

4/09

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Size up whatever situation you face without getting into a dispute with someone who is disagreeable. Work alone in order to avoid interference. Put more into home, family and self-improvement, and you will make gains and avoid disruptions. ★★



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Surround yourself with people who are aiming to get the same results as you. Focus on work, partnerships and getting ahead. Don't get into senseless arguments over petty matters. Do your own thing and try to make monetary gains. ★★★★★



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Keep a low profile. Now is not the time to confront a situation. Instead, put your time and effort into your dreams and ideas. Once you have an ironclad plan in place, you can make your move with confidence. ★★



Birthday Baby: You are entrepreneurial and powerful. You are charismatic and appealing.

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

ONE SIZE FITS ALL

Solution: 7 letters



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Yesterday's Answer: Timepiece

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UConn beats Notre Dame 63-53 for 3rd straight title

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Geno Auriemma and his UConn Huskies are a perfect 10.

The Hall of Fame coach joined some elite company in UCLA's John Wooden after tying the Wizard of Westwood with his 10th NCAA Tournament title.

"Obviously it's a very significant number because that's the number that's been out there and people want to talk about it. I'll be the first to say I'm not John Wooden and I got a bunch of friends who'd tell you I'm right, I'm not," Auriemma said. "As I said the other day I just think what we've done here in the last 20 years is pretty remarkable in its own right.

"I'll let the people who write the history decide where I fit in."

Kaleena Mosqueda-Lewis and Moriah Jefferson each scored 15 points Tuesday night to lead the Huskies to a 63-53 victory over Notre Dame. It was UConn's third straight title; Auriemma and the Huskies have won all 10 of their trips to the national championship game. As has become a tradition, his team carried Auriemma off the court after dumping confetti on his head.

Breanna Stewart added 15 rebounds and eight points for UConn (38-1). The two-time AP Player of the Year has saved her best games for when the lights shined their brightest.

She earned most outstanding player of the Final Four honors for the third time, making her the first woman ever to achieve that. Kareem Abdul-Jabbar was the only men's player to do it when he played for Wooden's



AP
The Connecticut team carries Connecticut head coach Geno Auriemma off the court after the second half of the NCAA women's Final Four tournament college basketball championship game against Notre Dame, Tuesday, April 7, 2015, in Tampa, Fla. Connecticut won 63-53.

Bruins.

"There just hasn't been a player like Stewie in the women's game in a long, long time," Auriemma said. "She might be two inches taller than Cheryl Miller and Cheryl Miller was one of best players I saw. ... Stewie's the kind of player that women's basketball probably hasn't seen."

She stated when she came to UConn that her goal was to win

four championships. She's now one title away from being the first to win four straight. Stewart has been a huge reason why the Huskies have won their three consecutive titles. She broke down on the podium with tears streaming down her face.

"I think it's really surreal and I haven't had a chance to even think about that," said

Stewart wearing the championship net around her neck. "I've won three national championships, but said I wanted to win four, you can't win four without winning three first."

Auriemma took Stewart out with about 30 seconds to play and gave her a big hug. The 6-foot-4 star is the latest in a long line of outstanding

UConn players that Auriemma has coached, including Rebecca Lobo, Diana Taurasi, Sue Bird and Maya Moore.

Those players have helped Auriemma win his 10 championships over 20 years. Wooden won his 10 during a 12-year span.

"I just know that in our sport, from 1995 to today, what we've done against our peers is as good if not better than anybody else has done in their sport against

their peers," Auriemma said. "I don't care whether it's harder in that sport."

Auriemma won his title one night after fellow USA Basketball Olympic coach Mike Krzyzewski won his fifth men's championship at Duke.

"Our Dad was very proud of Geno and Mike and how throughout their years as collegiate head basketball coaches they have diligently led their student-athletes to be successful on the court, in the classroom and in their lives," Wooden's children Nan and Jim Wooden said in a statement.

Notre Dame coach Muffet McGraw had her team back in the championship game for the fourth time in five seasons. The Irish have come up short each time, including the last two against UConn. Notre Dame's lone title came in 2001.

"It was a great accomplishment to get here," McGraw said. "Was disappointing we weren't able to play our game."

The Irish (36-3) were able to slow the Huskies in the early going and UConn only led 31-23 at the half.

After the Irish cut it to five to start the second half, UConn scored seven straight to open up a double-digit advantage. The Irish wouldn't go away, thanks to Brianna Turner, who missed the earlier meeting which the Huskies won by 18 points.

She had eight straight points for the Irish in the second half, including banking in a shot from the top of the key as the shot clock was reaching zero. That got the Irish within 54-48.

After the teams traded baskets, Mosqueda-Lewis scored seven straight, including a 3-pointer, to restore the double-digit advantage with just over four minutes left and Notre Dame couldn't recover.

"I thought the 3 that Lewis hit was critical," McGraw said.

Turner finished with 14 points and 10 rebounds. Jewel Loyd had 12 points for the Irish, going 4 for 18 from the field. She missed all eight of her shots in the second half.

The Connecticut-Notre Dame matchup was just the second time in the history of the tournament that the same teams played in the final in consecutive years. UConn beat Tennessee in 2003 and 2004.

It was also the 55th meeting between the top two teams in the AP poll with the No. 1 team holding a 34-21 lead. UConn, which finished the season atop the poll, has been involved in the last five of them.

Leonard scores 26 as Spurs beat Thunder for 8th straight win



OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Kawhi Leonard matched a career high with 26 points, and the San Antonio Spurs rolled past the Oklahoma City Thunder 113-88 on Tuesday night for their eighth straight victory.

The defending NBA champions have won each game during their streak by double digits, and by an average of 20.9 points. Tim Duncan had 12 points, nine rebounds and four blocks for the Spurs, who still have a shot at the No. 2 seed in the Western Conference playoffs.

San Antonio point guard Tony Parker left the game with tightness in his right Achilles tendon and did not return.

Russell Westbrook scored 17 points for the Thunder, who lost their fourth straight and fell a half-game behind the New Orleans Pelicans for the No. 8 spot in the Western Conference standings.

Pelicans 103, Warriors 100

In New Orleans, Anthony Davis

scored 23 of his 29 points in the second half, including two free throws with 9 seconds left, and New Orleans moved into eighth place in the Western Conference by beating Golden State.

Stephen Curry scored 25 points, hitting five 3-pointers, but his final attempt that would have tied the game went in and out.

That allowed the Pelicans to move back into the West's last playoff spot by a half-game over Oklahoma City, which lost to San Antonio.

Quincy Pondexter had 20 points for New Orleans, including his fourth 3 of the game to tie it at 95.

Draymond Green had 24 points for Golden State and Andrew Bogut blocked nine shots.

Heat 105, Hornets 100

In Miami, Goran Dragic scored 28 points, his most since coming to Miami in a February trade, and the Heat helped their playoff chances by topping Charlotte.

Luol Deng scored 21 for the Heat, who snapped a four-game losing streak. Dwyane Wade had 19 and Hassan Whiteside

added 12 on 6-for-8 shooting for Miami.

Gerald Henderson led the Hornets with 29 points. Kemba Walker scored 17, Mo Williams had 15, Bismack Biyombo had a 12-point, 12-rebound night, and Marvin Williams grabbed 13 rebounds for Charlotte.

Down 11 early in the fourth, Charlotte trimmed the deficit to three on three occasions—surely bringing back memories of how Miami wasted a 15-point late lead in what became a 99-98 loss at Detroit on Saturday.

The Heat hung on this time.

Hawks 96, Suns 69

In Atlanta, Atlanta set a single-season franchise high with its 58th victory, getting 16 points each from DeMarre Carroll and Jeff Teague in a win over Phoenix.

Mike Muscala, starting for injured All-Star forward Paul Millsap, finished with 16 points and Al Horford added 14 for the Eastern Conference champion Hawks.

The Suns missed 31 of 40 shots from the field in the second half to score a season low.

Gerald Green, with 15 points, was the only Phoenix player to score in double figures. Eric Bledsoe, ejected in the third quarter for arguing with officials, led the Suns' starters with nine points.

The 1986-87 and 1993-94 Hawks each won 57 games in the regular season.

Clippers 105, Lakers 100

In Los Angeles, Blake Griffin and J.J. Redick scored 27 points apiece and the Clippers completed a 4-0 season sweep of their downtrodden Staples Center co-tenant.

Chris Paul had 19 to go over 13,000 in his career for the Clippers, who have won four in a row and 11 of 12. They beat the Lakers for the second time in 48 hours, winning 106-78 after leading by 43.

The Lakers hung around in the rematch, and even led by four points early after never leading Sunday. Jordan Clarkson led them with 20 points, all in the first three quarters. Tarik Black added 16 points and Wesley Johnson 15.

Braves chase Latos in 1st inning and drub Marlins, 12-2



M I A M I

(AP)—The Atlanta Braves scored seven runs in the first inning off Mat Latos and beat the Miami Marlins for the second day in a row to start the season, 12-2 on Tuesday night.

Latos (0-1), acquired in the offseason, lasted only two-thirds of an inning in the shortest outing of his career. He was booed as he left the game, his first for his hometown team, and departed with an ERA of 94.50.

Freddie Freeman, Christian Bethancourt and Chris Johnson hit RBI doubles in the first.

Alex Wood (1-0) allowed two runs in five innings, and three relievers completed a five-hitter.

Orioles 6, Rays 5

In St. Petersburg, Fla., Adam Jones hit a two-run double during a four-run first inning off Nathan Karns (0-1), who gave up six runs and five hits in 5 2-3 innings.

Steve Pearce homered for the second straight game, a two-run drive that made it 6-0 in the second.

Baltimore's Chris Davis went 0 for 3 and was hit by a in his return after a 25-game suspension for a positive amphetamine test.

Kevin Gausman (1-0) pitched 2 1-3 innings, and Zach Britton struck out three straight batters for his first save.

Angels 2, Mariners 0

In Seattle, C.J. Wilson allowed two hits over eight innings and David Freese provided all the offense with a two-run homer in Los Angeles' win over Seattle.

Wilson (1-0) wriggled out of a second-inning jam and retiring the final 17 batters he faced. The left-hander allowed three baserunners and needed only two strikeouts to shut down the Mariners.

Albert Pujols doubled with one out in the fourth, the first hit off Seattle starter James Paxton (0-1), and Freese followed with a shot to right-center that barely cleared the fence.

Huston Street pitched the ninth for his first save.

Padres 7, Dodgers 3

In Los Angeles, Wil Myers keyed a four-run ninth inning with a tiebreaking single that sent San Diego to a rain-delayed victory over Los Angeles.

Clint Barmes led off the ninth against Chris Hatcher (0-1) with a single. Barmes went to third when catcher Yasmani Grandal overran a sacrifice bunt to the right of the plate by pinch-hitter Cory Spangenberg that had a lot of backspin on it, and hit him in the back with his throw to first.

Myers grounded the next



AP
Atlanta Braves right fielder Nick Markakis, right, celebrates the Braves' 12-2 win over the Miami Marlins with pitcher Shelby Miller following their baseball game in Miami, Tuesday, April 7, 2015.

pitch to right field to put the Padres ahead. Derek Norris followed with a two-run double, and Will Middlebrooks capped the rally with an RBI single.

Joaquin Benoit (1-0) got the victory despite giving up the tying run on an eighth-inning homer by Adrian Gonzalez — his second in two days. Craig Kimbrel struck out the side in the ninth in his Padres debut.

Rangers 3, Athletics 1

In Oakland, Calif., a healthy Prince Fielder hit a pair of run-scoring singles to help Jeff Banister earn his first victory as a major league manager, and Texas bounced back to beat Oakland.

Colby Lewis (1-0) shut down his former club over six sharp innings in his season debut.

The Rangers were shut out on opening night when Sonny Gray took a no-hit bid into the eighth for the Athletics.

Texas snapped a scoreless streak of 21 regular-season innings when Fielder punched a single to shallow center in the third. Fielder also had an RBI single in the fifth, and the Rangers got another run on an error by right fielder Craig Gentry.

Keone Kela escaped a bases-loaded jam in the seventh in his big league debut. Neftali Feliz closed for his first save.

Jesse Hahn (0-1) yielded three runs and seven hits in six innings.

Rockies 5, Brewers 2

In Milwaukee, Jordan Lyles pitched six effective innings and Colorado hit six doubles for the second consecutive game in a victory over Milwaukee.

Rockies hitters have 12 doubles in the first two games of the season, matching a major

league record set by the New York Giants in 1912.

Lyles (1-0) limited the Brewers to two runs and five hits. Colorado pitchers re-

tired their final 13 batters, and LaTroy Hawkins got his first save of the season.

Matt Garza (0-1) gave up four runs and eight hits in five

innings.

Diamondbacks 7, Giants 6

In Phoenix, Jake Lamb and

Tiger Woods back at the Masters and expecting to win

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP)—Tiger Woods hit the ball so pure that he felt like a 14-time major champion. Before long, the swing left him and he resembled a guy who couldn't break 80. He became so frustrated that he even threw a few clubs because of a game that had never been so maddening.

This wasn't Woods playing in the Masters. This was the last seven weeks when he was trying to decide if he should even show up.

"I worked my (tail) off," Woods said Tuesday with a smile of satisfaction. "That's the easiest way to kind of describe it. I worked hard. ... People would never understand how much work I put into it to come and do this again. But it was sunup to sundown, whenever I had free time. If the kids were asleep, I'd still be doing it. And then when they were in school, I'd still be doing it."

"So it was a lot of work." And he got his answer. It took nearly two months, followed by two practice rounds at Augusta National last week, before Woods decided to end his self-imposed break and return at the Masters.

Woods last played the Masters two years ago. He was No. 1 in the world and the overwhelming favorite. Now he is at No. 111 in the world and Las Vegas bookies may have been generous in listing him at 40-1.

Golf's biggest star always lights up Augusta National, and

such was the case when he arrived Monday afternoon.

Only now, expectations have been replaced by sheer curiosity. Never mind that he hasn't played in nearly two months and hasn't won the Masters in 10 years. When last seen at a tournament, Woods couldn't hit a simple chip shot, and the rest of his game was barely PGA Tour quality.

Adam Scott listed a half-dozen players that he could see contend for a green jacket, and he was asked why Woods was not on that short list.

"My guess is as good as yours," Scott said. "I really don't know. I have no idea what he's doing. I've listed a bunch of guys that I've watched play a little bit and followed their results. But it's a little bit unknown with Tiger because he hasn't played for a few months."

"When you're talking about a world-class player, you just don't know," he said. "I'm sure he has high hopes."

That he does.

Woods didn't look anything like the player who shot 82 at the Phoenix Open; who bladed a bunker shot over a green and into the bleachers; who walked off the course at Torrey Pines after 11 holes of the first round. During practice Monday afternoon and Tuesday morning, he looked closer to normal. There appeared to be no issues with his swing or

his chipping. He looked comfortable when he hugged his two children on the practice green and in a press room with no empty seats.

Woods always said he didn't play in a tournament if he didn't expect to win. That standard hasn't changed. There are no moral victories, even for a guy who hasn't won anything since the Bridgestone Invitational in August 2013.

"No, I still feel the same way. I want to win," Woods said. "The whole idea is to prepare and do that. And I feel like my game is finally ready to go and do that again."

So many others are coming into the Masters in better form.

Rory McIlroy won early in the year at Dubai and began showing progress toward the end of the Florida swing. Jordan Spieth won at Innisbrook, was runner-up at the Texas Open and lost in a playoff at the Houston Open in his last three starts. He is eager at another shot at Augusta National, where last year he played in the final group at age 20.

Bubba Watson is the defending champion and going after his third green jacket in four years. Only Jack Nicklaus won so many Masters at that rate.

"I think everyone is just curious to see how he comes back," McIlroy said. "I don't think you should ever underestimate it him. He's done things on

the golf course that are pretty special. But you know, just as a golf fan in general, I'm sort of interested to see how he does when he comes back. I had a good chat with him on the putting green today. He feels good. He's been working hard. He's got the motivation to keep at it.

"And just like everyone else," McIlroy added, "I'll be looking for his score and seeing what he's doing."

Woods said he would have skipped the Masters if he didn't feel ready. He also said he wasn't targeting the Masters, but the Arnold Palmer Invitational three weeks ago.

There was no epiphany on the practice range at home. The goal was to be better at the end of each day. He worked with his new coach, Chris Como, and never lost hope that his game would not return. That's not to say there weren't a few trying moments.

"It would come in flashes," Woods said. "I would get in these modes where it would come for 10 minutes and I would just have it, just dialed in. And then I'd lose it for an hour. And then I'd get it back. And next thing you know, I'd flip to having it for an hour to 10 minutes of losing it. And then it got to a point where it was just there."

But he's not there yet.

He tees off Thursday afternoon. For all the questions about his game, the score will be the measure of his game, just like always.



MP United nips Matansa in Dove league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



MP United Football Club moved up in the team standings in the 2015 Dove Women's Football League following a 2-1 victory over at the Oleai Sports Complex Field last Tuesday night.

MP United improved its win-draw-loss record to 5-1-3 to grab the third spot from idle Kanoa FC (4-2-2). Shirley's FC (8-0-0) and Tan Holdings (5-3-

1) are in the Top 2, while Independents FC (2-0-6), Matansa (1-0-6), and Paire (0-0-7) complete the field.

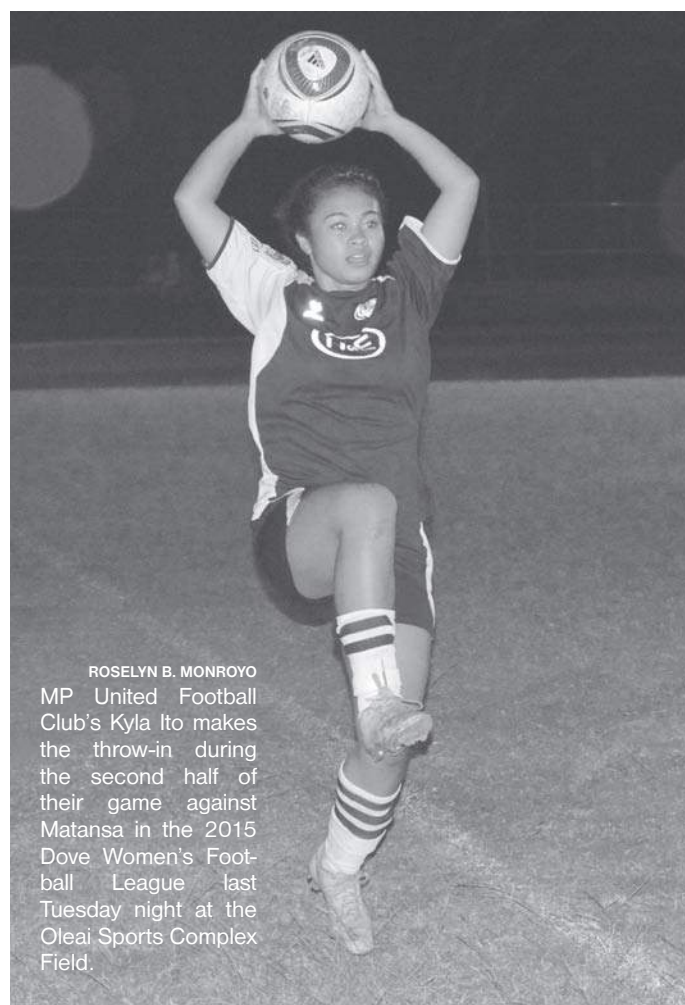
Jayda Mendoza lifted MP United to its fifth win in nine games, drilling both goals in the second half. Her first goal in the 12th minute allowed MP United to equalize. Five minutes earlier, Bernadette Horey broke the ice and put Matansa on top with her goal.

Both teams struggled offensively in the first half, as intermittent rain prevented them from getting their rhythm. The match remained tied for several

minutes before Mendoza found his target anew in the 75th to hand MP United the close win.

The victory was a repeat of MP United's triumph over Matansa in the second round. Michelle Masga scored the lone goal for MP United in their first round duel against Matansa, which gave an up own goal to its opponent. Pinyatar Shankweiler hit the only goal for Matansa in their first meeting with MP United.

With MP United getting two more goals at the resumption of the league, it brings its total now to 18, the fourth best in the field.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
MP United Football Club's Kyla Ito makes the throw-in during the second half of their game against Matansa in the 2015 Dove Women's Football League last Tuesday night at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Shirley's has the most goals so far this season with its 32, while Tan Holdings has earned 26, just four more than Kanoa's total (22). Matansa has notched nine goals, while Independents FC and Paire have eight and four respectively.

Shirley's also led the league in the least goals allowed with two, while Paire has given up 27. Tan Holdings has allowed 13, while Kanoa, Matansa, MP United, and IFC have given up 15, 19, 21, and 22, in order.

Action in the seven-team league will continue this Saturday with Shirley's hoping to keep its perfect record when it takes on MP United in the first game at 4pm. In the second match at 6pm, it will be Tan Holdings versus Independents, while Matansa and Kanoa will close shop at 8pm.

PSS, IT&E earn contrasting wins

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Public School System and IT&E scored victories over separate opponents in contrasting fashion in the continuation of the Inter-Commercial Business Basketball League 2015 Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

PSS crushed an undermanned MARPAC side, 95-53, for its fifth win in seven games, while IT&E survived a seesaw battle against Joeten Enterprises, 73-69, to improve to 4-4. MARPAC suffered its eighth straight loss while Joeten dropped to 4-3.

PSS found MARPAC an easy opponent as the latter showed up with only five players in the first half.

PSS scored 12 straight points, while MARPAC struggled with their shooting and only made a basket in the 5:12 mark of the opening quarter on a Jay Diyco jumper.

PSS ended the first period up by 14, 26-12, and was never threatened after that.

Marlon Cabrera led four other PSS players that finished in double figures with 22 points and 12 rebounds.

Maverick Itibus tallied 19, Preston Basa had 17 points and 8 assists, Jerry Diaz finished with 15 markers, and Joe Villa-

crucis scored 14 and added 10 assists.

Diyco paced MARPAC with 23 points, while Thorn Sablan added 16 points, 12 rebounds, and 5 steals.

Earlier, IT&E leaned on Edsel Mendoza's free throw shooting in the final moments of the fourth period to escape with a 73-69 decision over Joeten Enterprises.

Mendoza ended up with 19 points, mostly on free throws, making eight straight from the charity stripe. He also had 6 rebounds, 3 steals, 1 assist, and 1 block.

Chris Peredo paced IT&E's scoring with 20 markers, while also grabbing 8 rebounds and ending up with 5 steals, an assist, and a block. Nate Mateo and Jason Palacios chipped in 12 and 11 markers each.

Dixon Kwon led Joeten with 25 points and 8 rebounds, while Syl Teregeyo scattered 12 points and grabbed a game-high 18 rebounds. Alex Lauron was held to 9 points but had 14 boards.

First Game

IT&E 73 – Peredo 20, Mendoza 19, Mateo 12, Palacios 11, Renguul 6, Benavente 5.

Joeten 69 – Kwon 25, Teregeyo 12, Lauron 9, Nakayama 6, Ritual 5, Sambile 4, Tobias 4.

Scoring by quarters: 10-10, 25-28, 50-46, 73-69.

man wrestling but you only need 3 points to win," said Babauta.

Pushing your opponent out of the circle gives you one point, while pinning your opponent earns you two points are the ways to score in beach wrestling.

It was the Marshal Islands' first time to host an Oceania Championship in any sport and a total of 100 delegates from 16 Pacific Island nations—American Samoa, Australia, the CNMI, Federated States of Micronesia, French Polynesia (Tahiti), Guam, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, and Tuvalu—joined the OWC.

Second Game

PSS 95 – Cabrera 22, Itibus 19, Basa 17, Diaz 15, Villacrusis 14, Manibusan 4, Winkfield 4.

MARPAC 53 – Diyco 23, Sablan 16, Hofschneider 4, Lee 4, Mendiola 3, Mettao 3.

Scoring by quarters: 26-12, 47-27, 70-44, 95-53.

'The Crank' to see action in ROP 18

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Frank "The Crank" Camacho is hoping to redeem himself from his loss in last month's Pacific Xtreme Combat 47 when he takes on Deep Impact Japan fighter Yoshiyuki "Nagisa" Katahira in Rights of Passage 18: Warpath, which has been pushed back to May.

ROP 18 is set on May 15 at 7pm at the Saipan World Resort where the Camacho-Katahira fight is the main headliner. Two title matches are also scheduled aside from 10 to 12 undercard bouts.

Camacho (15-3, with 11 knockouts) suffered a first round loss via rear-naked choke submission to Japanese shooto champion Yusuke Kasuya (9-2-1) in Guam's PXC 47.

Katahira is also coming off a loss to Keita Nakamura by rear-naked choke submission in Deep Impact 71 on Feb. 28, 2015.

Guam's Jose "Young Blood"

ISAIAH

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21 markers.

Meanwhile, two more playing days are left in the regular season and results of the four remaining matches will determine the three other playoff pairings. Daniel is already assured of the top spot and will be pitted against the last-ranked Samuel in the first round of the playoffs. Other pairings will be No. 2 vs No. 7, No. 3 vs No. 6, and No. 4 vs No. 5.

Caleb is in third place with its 4-1 record and will play Ezekiel (2-3) tomorrow in the second

TRENCH TECH

Ramirez (1-1), who defeated the CNMI's Vince "Vinsanity" Pua (2-3) in Trench Warz 18: Rock and Rumble last year, will face Eric "Gatti" Gatman (2-0) for the 155-pound lightweight belt.

Ramirez was about to fight Ryan "Da Predator" Toves (2-3) in Trench Warz 18 last December, but the HBP Guam fighter pulled out due to health reasons.

Gatman is fresh from a second-round triangle choke submission win against the CNMI's "Shiska" Bob Alvarez, who was making his MMA debut in Trench Warz 18 last Dec. 12, 2014.

Shane "Pikaboo" Alvarez, another Trench Tech fighter, will vie for the vacant 125-lb title against a still undetermined opponent.

The flyweight belt was vacated after it was stripped from Josh "Chaos" Duenas (4-5) following the former champion's

game before closing out against Joshua (2-3) on Monday also in the second match. The other tiff this Friday will have Jeremiah (1-5) battling Joshua in the first game, while Gideon (3-3) will take on Ezekiel in the last match on Monday.

Isaiah 84 – Fatialofa 22, Gragasin 16, Brillo 13, Estanislao 12, Cortez 11, De Leon 6, Buno 2.

Samuel 59 – Ponce 21, Guevarra 11, Badal 10, Belgado 7, Calibo 4, Samonte 2, Abragan 2, Bonquin 2.

Scoring by halves: 41-21, 84-59.

failure to defend his title for not making weight.

ROP 18 was originally set on April 24 but was pushed back to May 15 at the Saipan World Resort to give Trench Tech Promotions more time to organize the event after two of their sponsors pulled out.

Trench Tech promoter Cuki Alvarez said Hertz, IT&E, and Mango Resort are now on board as their new sponsors.

He also said that interested mixed martial arts practitioners who want to join ROP 18 could reach him at 483-4662 or on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

PROS

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"We still have the energy for the Guam race. It will be quite hard, but we will be fine," said Parker, who is competing in her fourth race in about a month after doing Tagaman Triathlon, XTERRA Saipan, and XTERRA Philippines.

"We're just warming up. We're pacing ourselves nicely," Hadden said.

Wasle and Bucher, who came in second and third place behind Slack in XTERRA Saipan, said they are happy to head to Guam without getting injured in the rain-soaked race last month.

"I am very lucky to finish XTERRA Saipan in one piece and still have the energy and strength to race in Guam," Bucher said.

"I am feeling good heading to Guam because I survived XTERRA Saipan without any crash and I have enough time to rest," Wasle said.

Clarification

On the article *Ackerman, 3 others clinch NMSA monthly honors* that was published last Monday, April 6, Northern Marianas National Paddle Sports Federation official Gil Birnrich was quoted that Jack Kabiriel and Dino Manning used "inferior equipment" when they joined the 2015 Paddle Sports Classic in Tumon Bay, Guam last month.

Manning said that the equipment loaned to them by the Guam paddling community was not inferior and that "they were very generous in letting us use their equipment for the races."

Manning said that he and Kabiriel were thankful for the support shown to them by the Guam paddling community.

Wasle and the rest of the pros need the win and the points at stake in XTERRA Guam to boost their respective bids in the XTERRA Asian Tour. The pros with the most points after the five races featured in the XTERRA Asian Tour will be crowned champions and get bonus cash prizes. The champions (men's and women's division) will get \$2,000 each, while the No. 2 to 5 finishers will receive \$1,500, \$800, \$400, and \$300. After XTERRA Guam, the pros still have two more events—XTERRA Asia Pacific in Australia and XTERRA Malaysia.

Weiss is slightly ahead of Allen in the XTERRA Asian Tour race with the former getting 100 and 90 points in XTERRA Philippines and XTERRA Saipan. Allen has earned 182 points for placing third in XTERRA Philippines and winning XTERRA Saipan, while Slack (190), Carey (157), Bucher (144), and Parker (132) are in the Top 4 in the women's division.

BABAUTA

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gain experience in an international tournament.

He added that after graduation he plans to join several international tournaments and Olympic qualifying events in August and September.

Babauta said learning beach wrestling in high school helped him develop his skills in Freestyle and Greco-Roman wrestling styles.

"Beach wrestling helps practice balance and form because unlike a mat, the sand is not stable so perfect form and placement of the body is important. It is like Freestyle and Greco-Ro-

FIVB Volleyball Cooperation Program Teacher's Training Course

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



Participants of the of the six-day volleyball training course pose for a group photo after completing the program given by International Federation of Volleyball instructor Dr. Christian Kroger, standing left, last month.



Two participants practice their hand-eye coordination skills.



One of the classroom sessions during the six-day volleyball training program.



Marianas High School teacher Jim Feger, left, and Joy Yumul perform one of the drills.



M.C. Tipingeni, right, and his partner practice some passing skills for proper hand-eye coordination.



Dr. Christian Kroger, left, gives out instructions.



Jim Feger, left, rolls the ball to his partner.



Participants try to keep the ball in play.



M.C. Tipingeni, left, rolls out the ball to his partner.



Jim Feger, right, prepares to pick up the ball.



**UConn beats
Notre Dame
63-53 for 3rd
straight title**

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**MP United
nips Matansa
in Dove
league**

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

28 THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2015

Babauta makes noise in Oceania Championship

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Ryan Babauta quietly left the CNMI to compete in the 2015 Oceania Wrestling Championship in Majuro, Marshall Islands last month where he made some noise by bagging six medals, two of which were gold.

Babauta, representing the CNMI in an international tournament for the first time, also won silver and three bronze medals in the Greco-Roman, freestyle, and beach

wrestling events in the Oceania championship.

The OWC is a qualifying tournament for the Junior World Championship in Brazil in August and Senior World Champi-

onship in Las Vegas in September this year.

Babauta won a gold and bronze in high school wrestling, gold in Greco Roman (Juniors 98 kilograms), and bronze (Seniors 96kgs) in Greco-Roman, silver in junior freestyle, and bronze in beach wrestling (85kgs).

The 17-year-old, who is from San Roque on Saipan, is a senior at John F. Kennedy High School in Guam and will be graduating this June. He said that he plans to take up a course in physical fitness and health in

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Ryan Babauta hopes to use his stint in last month's Oceania Wrestling Championship as a springboard when he tries out for a wrestling team in a university in the state of Washington.

any university in the state of Washington.

"I hope to also try out for the wrestling team to be able to represent the CNMI in any way that I can," said Babauta, who is being coached by his uncle, Department of Public Safety acting public information officer Jason Tarkong.

Babauta said that Tarkong motivated him to compete in the Oceania Championship to

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Isaiah snaps skid, whips Samuel

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Isaiah capped its regular season campaign in the 4th Genesis Cup Christian Churches Inter-Color Basketball League on a winning note after crushing Samuel, 84-59, last Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Isaiah finished the round-robin eliminations with a 5-2 record as it moved up to second place

in the team standings behind the unbeaten Daniel (7-0). Isaiah also snapped its two-game skid, while denying Samuel entry to the win column, as the latter ended the regular season with a 0-7 mark.

Fred Fatialofa led Isaiah's demolition of Samuel, as his towering presence in the paint proved to be too much for the hapless Samuel. Fatialofa cherry-picked in

the shaded lane, scoring 6 of Isaiah's first 10 points to give his team an early double-digit lead, 10-0.

Samuel was held scoreless for about five minutes of the first half and never recovered from thereon, as it failed to put the clamps on Fatialofa, who made several baskets off putbacks.

The Isaiah center went on to finish the first 20 minutes of play with 18 points to power his team to a comfortable 41-21 halftime advantage. Another Isaiah big man Francis Estanislao and guard Oliver Gragasin provided support to Fatialofa in the first frame, combining for 13 markers.

In the second half, Gragasin scored in double figures (10), while Walter Brillo also found his form, matching the former's output after nailing only one basket in the first half. Five other Isaiah players hit the board in the second half en route to their 25-point win.

Fatialofa led all scorers with his 22 points, while Chino Ponce paced Samuel with his

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Isaiah's Fred Fatialofa towers above two Samuel defenders for an easy putback during the first quarter of their game in the 4th Genesis Cup last Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



Pros upbeat for XTERRA Guam

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Ben Allen and company are positive about their chances in XTERRA Guam after surviving the tough race on Saipan and getting lots of rest on the island before this Saturday's competition.

"It (rest) will definitely help. Recovery time is crucial although I trained by body to get used to doing one race after another," said the Australian pro, who stayed on Saipan for more than a week before flying to Guam early yesterday morning.

"I like my chances (of winning) in Guam because I am

in good form right now after doing XTERRA Saipan. It's just a matter of executing the race plan in Guam, staying focus, and committing lesser mistakes while I go along the hilly course," said Allen in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* at the awards banquet for XTERRA Saipan.

The up-and-downhill course in Guam favors United Kingdom's Jacqui Slack, who will be gunning for back-to-back wins in the XTERRA Asian Tour after ruling XTERRA

Saipan with Allen.

"The hilly course suits me well, it plays to my strength so I really like my chances in Guam. Plus, after racing on Saipan, I pretty much managed to gauge my opponents and have an idea how to push myself for XTERRA Guam," said Slack.

Slack and Allen will be joined in Guam by Austria's Carina Wasle and Markus Benesch, Switzerland's Renata Bucher, United Kingdom's Daz Parker, Australia's Belinda Hadden, France's Olivier Marceau, the Philippines' Joe Miller, South Africa's Bradley Weiss, and Japan's Takahiro Ogasawara. Miek Carey and Charlie Epperson are also on the pro list and are the host's favorites.

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
From left, Carina Wasle, Belinda Hadden, and Renata Bucher, seen here catching up with the leaders in the swim leg of XTERRA Saipan, will be competing in XTERRA Guam this Saturday.

